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A REPORT
RELATING TO THE
PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

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A REPORT
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PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

J. Peter Swann
M.A. (Cantab)

January, 1972

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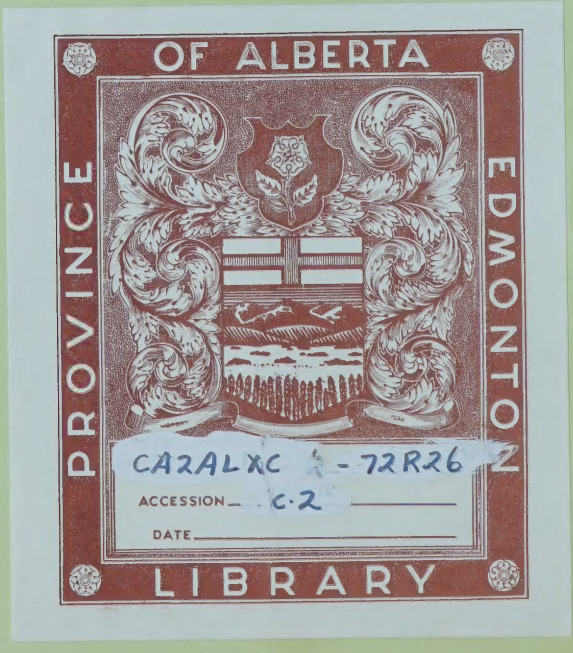
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A REPORT

RELATING TO THE

PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

J. Peter Swann
M.A.(Cantab)

January, 1972.

January 1st, 1729	Edmund Burke Born
January 19th, 1764	Wilkes Expelled from the House of Commons
January 20th, 1265	First English Parliament Met in Westminster
January 31st, 1881	Longest Known Sitting of Parliament (41 Hours)

J. PETER SWANN 13904 – 78th AVENUE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA
TELEPHONE (403) 488-8013

January 24th, 1972.

The Hon. L. D. Hyndman, M.L.A.,
323 Legislative Building,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the attached report relating to the publication of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, prepared in accordance with your letter to me of October 19th, 1971.

The terms of reference set out in that letter were as follows:-

"I hereby appoint you to inquire into all matters relating to the possible improvement and expansion of publication of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and, in particular, to provide the following:

1) a review of the methods used by Governments elsewhere to produce a daily record of House proceedings, including the physical and human requirements for their operation;

2) an examination of any other possible methods not currently used by other Governments, or modifications to existing methods, made possible by recent technological advances;

3) a survey of the particular needs of the Alberta Legislature, and the correlation of these needs to the advantages and disadvantages of the various possible techniques;

4) a review of the facilities currently available in Alberta and an assessment of the additional facilities which would be necessary for the implementation of any of the suitable methods;

5) an examination of possible uses for any additional facilities at times when the Legislature is not in Session, and the realization of revenue from such use to defray the cost of its acquisition;

6) examination of the extent to which students and teachers in the grade one to twelve system, as well as students and teachers in the post secondary institutions, could use a "Hansard" or similar record of proceedings, in their studies;

7) an examination of the potential public demand, by Alberta citizens, for transcripts of proceedings of the Legislature, at no or nominal cost;

8) an estimation of the costs involved in implementing and maintaining systems as may appear suitable, together with the costs involved in the distribution of the published material and the prospects for revenue from sales and subscriptions;

9) the recommendation of one approach that appears to be the most likely to provide the best return for the investment involved;

10) the recommendation of a programme for its implementation and its testing and for the training of those who would be involved in its operation."

In preparing this report, I have spent considerable time in libraries acquainting myself with both the historical development of legislative reporting and current thinking on the subject; I have corresponded and talked with numerous people, both in Canada and abroad, and have visited not only Ottawa but also the capitals of every province except Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. I spent a day with the group who are providing consultative services to the House of Commons in Ottawa, and made a short excursion into the U. S. to learn at first hand about some relevant commercial developments.

I cannot claim to have exhausted all sources of information and opinion in gathering material on this very broad topic; to do so would have involved a research effort which would have exceeded by far the scope and the time available for the study. A broad cross-section of those who could be expected to have a particular interest or experience were contacted, and it is my opinion that this sampling has yielded most, if not all, of the relevant facts and arguments.

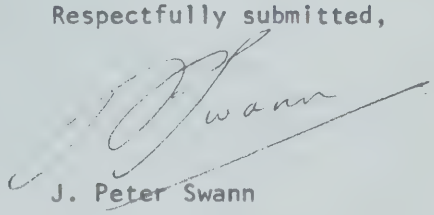
'Publication' has been given its broadest meaning, and all methods by which the public might become better acquainted with events within the Legislative Chamber are given some consideration. However, no detailed attention is given to the mechanics of introducing radio or television coverage to the House, on the understanding that this is being given ample consideration by others.

It is my understanding that you intend to provide copies of this report to Members of the Legislature, in the hope that it will assist them in deciding what form of publication should be undertaken, this being the prerogative of the House as a whole. I have therefore attempted to write it in a way that will be of value to them; I have attempted to assemble arguments, sometimes without drawing conclusions which are in their competence, but not mine.

It was impossible to include in this report all of the detail about how others prepare their records, and concerning the minor but significant considerations related to the establishment of an Official Record. This information is of course available to you, and if such a course of action is decided upon for Alberta, I will be most happy to discuss the matter in full with whoever is responsible.

Finally, I would draw to your attention the magnificent cooperation I have received from many, many people in this and other provinces during the course of this study. Time, opinion, information, hospitality, and patience were contributed ungrudgingly from all sides; many of these people have expressed an interest in receiving a copy of this report. I hope you will be able to accommodate them, as a token acknowledgement of their generous cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Peter Swann

P.S.

Since preparing this report, I have received from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, a copy of part of the Proceedings of the 1st Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks-at-the-Table, Canberra 23-25 January, 1968, which concerns the introduction and development of a daily Hansard, and which reflects the experiences of all the Australian parliaments. Most of the points discussed are of direct relevance to the subject of this report, and I strongly recommend it as valuable background reading for M.L.A.'s. Because of its length (16 pages) I have not attached it as an Appendix but will ensure that a copy of it is available in the Legislative library.

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FOREWARNING

"There must always be question as to how much the individual is deciding, and how much has been decided for him by the group which has provided the relevant information . . ."

J. K. Galbraith,
New Industrial State, Chpt. 7

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information in this report has been generously provided by a large number of people, who through conversation or correspondence, have given unhesitatingly of their time and cooperation.

Credit for the valuable data contained herein must go to them; blame for the inaccuracies in their presentation or the fallacy of conclusions drawn from them must rest with the author.

The list of all these people is too long to include here - suffice it to say that they include the Clerk and his staff, and those responsible for the editing and printing of the official record of proceedings, in almost every province in Canada and in Ottawa; Britain and the U. S. A.; parliamentarians, historians, and political scientists; Librarians, Queen's Printers, and educators; newspapermen, broadcasters, and members of the general public; manufacturers and distributors of equipment; researchers, consultants, cabinet ministers, and Speakers.

Particular recognition should go to Mr. W. H. MacDonald, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, and his staff who have cheerfully and kindly borne my meddling in their affairs.

To all of these, and particularly to those in the news media who helped bring word of my efforts to the attention of the public, I offer my very sincere thanks.

I

INTRODUCTION

Parliament, as we know it today, has evolved during several centuries from a very different sort of assembly.

In its early forms, Parliament was a closed body, and jealously guarded its right to conduct its business in private. In what Wilding and Laundy describe as 'an interesting survival from a less enlightened era'(1), it is still technically a 'flagrant breach of parliamentary privilege' for anyone to report parliamentary proceedings or to take notes in the galleries; the freedom the Press appear to enjoy today is simply the result of a tacit dispensation of the rules, which may still be - and have been in recent years - called upon when unacceptable violations offend the dignity of the House. Many parliamentarians still favour the concept of an essentially private parliamentary assembly in which the business of the electorate may be debated in an atmosphere as free as possible from external pressures, and with reporting by the Press subject to clearly established rules and limitations.

In contrast, television is now said to be knocking at the door of almost every Parliament in the world. If admitted, as it already has been in some places (including Nova Scotia), it may be the source either of edited film clips for news reports and similar presentations, or of

continuous live coverage. Considerable concern is expressed as to the effect these sorts of broadcasting would have on conduct in the House; a Member may no longer speak for the benefit of his colleagues in the House, but rather may aim his remarks at the audience of thousands who, he hopes, will be tuned in. In this way, the nature of the Assembly may be substantially changed, and the long established traditions of rule and procedure may have become totally inappropriate.

The manner of publication of the proceedings may therefore have a substantial bearing on the efficiency with which the business of the Province is conducted; conversely, the form of publication favoured by each Member will be largely dependent upon what he expects of the Legislature, and how he believes its business should be conducted. Some discussion of the nature of the Legislative Assembly is therefore necessary as a preamble to a consideration of the publication of its proceedings.

Alberta is one of only two Canadian provinces which do not prepare an official printed record of their legislative debates. Among those who do, there is little consistency as to method or philosophy. Each, of course, believes that its method is the best, and well it may be for its own circumstances. It is, however, not a simple matter of looking elsewhere and saying, 'If we wish to publish an official record, this is the way to do it.' There are many aspects to be considered, and it is perhaps unreasonable to expect the Legislature as a whole to consider each one; rather, such decisions should be made within the framework of broadly defined guidelines by those who may be responsible for the publication of

any such reports. It must however be recognised that such decisions will establish a practice and tradition which, once accepted, will become nearly sacred and unquestionable.

Eight different groups of people can be identified as potential users of such records. The merits of each group and their needs in terms of availability and format will help to determine both the preferred publication method and the justification for the costs involved. Of these groups, the general public appear to be the most disinterested. Various explanations will be given for this apparent apathy, which may or may not be cause for concern on the part of legislators.

Costs of Hansard-type operations vary across the country from a low of $20,000 to a high of $900,000, excluding Ottawa. Very many factors affect these costs, and any estimates for Alberta must take into account the method to be used and the philosophy to be adopted.

A number of recommendations falling within the intended scope of this study are gathered together in the final section of this report. A number of other statements reflecting the personal opinions of the author may be found in the body of the report. These have been included because, although they do not fall directly within the terms of reference, they have some bearing on this very broad and significant topic. In many instances, the reader is expected to draw his own conclusions from the arguments presented, as these will depend for the most part on personal judgment. The author, in these instances, has attempted to assemble all

of the available arguments on both sides, and to present them as objectively and impartially as possible. These are decisions which only the Legislative Assembly as a whole should make.

In an attempt to provide as broad a background for these decisions as possible, a number of quotations from the substantial volume of correspondence generated in this study have been included as illustrative material. It should be strongly emphasized that, for the most part, the opinions offered were those of the individuals who wrote them, and may not reflect the views or the policies of the organization with which they are affiliated.

II

THE NATURE OF THE LEGISLATURE

This is not the place for a lengthy dissertation on parliamentary government; even if it were, someone with considerably more background and experience in the field than the present author should offer it. Nevertheless, one does not need to search very far through the current literature to realize that the parliamentary form of government is undergoing a re-evaluation throughout the world, and that there is little consensus, even among experienced parliamentarians, as to the direction the next evolutionary step should take.

The attitude of a Member towards the Legislature will affect in considerable measure how he wishes to see its proceedings published. If, on the one hand, he believes in the House as a debating chamber, where all aspects of a question are explored before Members are expected finally to make up their minds, he will probably be in favour of an official record which will permit anyone who is interested, either presently or at some distant point in time, to review how a particular historical event came to pass. On the other hand, if he sees the floor of the House as the platform from which the public may be made aware of his political philosophies and those of his colleagues, as well as the programmes which his party either will or would put into effect, then he will want to see

the proceedings given wide coverage by the news media and brought by every other possible means to the attention of as many people as possible.

The attitude of 'the man in the street' is particularly disturbing. To him, the term 'politician' is a derogatory one. He believes politicians talk a lot, and do little. He believes legislators waste their time and his money in the Assembly. The emergence of numerous 'citizens' action groups' is frequently attributed to a growing lack of confidence in democratic governments.

If the prognostications of only a few of those who, on the basis of population growth, energy usage, environmental damage, and so on, see great problems for mankind within the next three generations are correct, governments will be called upon to introduce a number of measures which will be generally unpleasant, but nevertheless in the vital interest of our society as a whole. They will have to convince the populace of the need to accept such measures. No government will be able to do so, unless either it and its legislative procedures have the confidence of its electorate, or it has dictatorial control.

Democratically elected legislators are therefore faced with the challenge of reestablishing in their electors a degree of confidence in their sincerity, and in their competence (and that of the system of which they are a part) to manage the affairs of the people. There is surely no better time to face up to such a challenge than when a new government has

taken office, and when the majority of the elected representatives are new to these responsibilities.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Numerous descriptions of the parliamentary assembly have been written or voiced over the years. They represent a wide range of viewpoints, which fall between two extremes. At one end of the scale is the concept of the private debating chamber, where the affairs of the people are discussed by those elected or appointed to do so, in an atmosphere as free as possible from external influences. To quote the editor of The Parliamentarian,

> ". . . Parliaments in most countries, which have followed the Westminster pattern, have developed a special character and atmosphere so that Members feel less that they are participating in a public forum than that they are in a special private Chamber of their own in which they are free, within the Standing Orders and conventions of that Chamber, to express themselves frankly. Comparisons between sessions of the U. N. General Assembly or Security Council and parliamentary sessions readily illustrate the special intimacy which is intrinsic in the latter."(2)

Perhaps this is the atmosphere in which Edmund Burke would have felt that legislators could function best. In an article in the Edmonton Journal of December 20th, 1971, Harry Midgley wrote that Burke believed legislators

> "are only representatives of the people. They are all trustees for the people, 'because no power is given for the sake of the holder. . .'
>
> He maintained that the essence of the House of Commons lies in its being the express image of the feelings of the nation. It is not to be a control upon the people, but for them. Yet he did not mean MPs should slavishly do as their electors tell them.

> And he propounded the classic, still-accepted definition of the representative system, maintaining that, 'Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion.' Parliament, he said, is not a congress of ambassadors, but a deliberative assembly of one nation, with one interest - that of the whole."(3)

At the other extreme, there is the belief that acceptance of the party system (which is far younger than Parliament itself) dictates the nature of the Assembly. The party with the greatest support in the House forms the government, and, provided it can keep its Members in line, is assured passage of any measures it proposes. The duty of the Opposition is to oppose, and in so doing it can delay and obstruct the Government's programme. The purpose of debate is less to influence the outcome of a division than to secure publicity in the press, to influence the voters in anticipation of the next election, and to pour ridicule upon those on the other side of the House. The Ottawa House of Commons seems to have adopted a modus operandi very close to this extreme.

For an M.L.A. to develop an individual opinion on this subject, he must have answers to such questions as:-

What are my responsibilities to those who elected me?

How do my responsibilities to those who supported me differ from those to others who may have voted for someone else?

What are my responsibilities to electors in other constituencies?

How can I best fulfil these responsibilities?

What is the function of the Legislative Assembly, of which I have been elected a Member?

How can it be made to exercise this function efficiently, and indeed, what constitutes efficency in this context?

What are the roles of the political parties in the Legislature and what place should party politics have in legislative debate?

How important is party solidarity?*

How much consideration should be given to the fact that what happens in the House will be reported to the public through the news media?

What effect will my conduct and that of the Legislature as a whole have on the public image of politics, politicians, and parliamentary proceedings generally, and of the credibility and responsibility of democratic governments?

---

* It is, of course, traditional that the defeat of a Government measure is taken as a vote of no confidence in the Government, although Lester Pearson managed to buck this tradition in 1967. Such an understanding, however, makes it important for party members to vote with the party, perhaps in spite of their personal opinions. For this reason, there are few 'free votes' in Parliament.

It might be noted that a simple procedural device would overcome this difficulty: upon the defeat of a government measure, Mr. Speaker would automatically place before the House the motion 'That this House has no confidence in the Government', which would have precedence over all other business including adjournment, and would not be debatable. Any Member would therefore be able to vote against any measure that ran contrary to his personal convictions, without denying support to those he believes most fit to govern.

The recent vote in the British House of Commons on the question of Common Market entry, when considerable numbers on both sides defied three line whips to vote as their consciences dictated, provides an interesting example of a break with traditional party solidarity. One may wonder what might have happened to Parliamentary procedures had the Government been defeated on that vote.

In this last regard, the recent words of Martin Amis are significant: -

> "The more experience we have of political discussion, in whatever context, the more familiar we become with its peculiar idiom, its tendency to generalize, its proneness to cliché. We have now got used to a kind of tantrum style, concerned not with dialogue but with distributed monologue, not with debate but with expression. Such exchanges appeal not to the intelligence but to the reflexes and twitches of stock-response; the point is not to think, merely to release the querulous mumblings of the ego. The result tends to be a kind of jargon-mired babel of resentment and prejudice, with everyone shouting and no one listening."(4)

III

REPORTING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

It was in 1621, after the abolition of the Star Chamber,

> "that a demand became apparent amongst the literate populace for news of Parliament's activities. Various news books came into being which reported parliamentary proceedings as their main feature. . .Some reports. . .were recognized officially, but those which offended Parliament were suppressed and their authors and printers punished. . .There was considerable journalistic activity between 1641 and 1660 in spite of the dangers involved, and in spite of the re-imposition of censorship in 1643. . . Shortly after the Restoration the activities of the Press were severely curtailed. On June 25, 1660, the House of Commons resolved 'that no person whatsoever do presume at his peril to print any votes of proceedings of this House without the special leave and order of this House'. . .[For] over thirty years the Press was virtually suppressed. . .[In] 1695 there was a great revival of journalistic activity, but Parliament remained as firm as ever in its insistence that its debates and proceedings should receive no attention from the Press. But the popular demand for parliamentary information was as strong as ever."(5)

It was not until 1771, after a determined campaign of civil disobedience by the 'notorious' John Wilkes and others, that

> "the freedom of the press may be said to have been secured. . . . In 1803 the House of Commons recognized the right of the Press by reserving special seats in the Public Gallery for the use of reporters, and in 1835 the first gallery exclusively for the use of the Press was opened."(6)

Also in 1803,

> "William Cobbett began to include a regular report of parliamentary debates in his 'Polical Register'. There was, of

> course, no attempt at verbatim reporting at this time, but the innovation was a great step forward as Cobbett brought a high spirit of integrity and fair-mindedness to his task which kept his report free from any partisan bias. After eight years he sold his interest to a printer named Thomas Curson Hansard, who was the son of Luke Hansard, the printer to the House of Commons. In its early years Hansard was compiled from newspaper reports and appeared at monthly intervals. . .In 1878 a Select Committee was appointed to consider the entire question of parliamentary reporting, and as a result of its recommendations Hansard received a partial subsidy from the Stationery Office on condition that the quality of the report improved. Towards the fulfilment of this condition the first Hansard reporter was appointed and charged with the duty of attending the debates himself and supplementing the material drawn from newspaper reports. The standard of the report continued to be inadequate, and ten years later. . .the concern passed from the hands of the Hansard family. . . [Several different firms then failed to handle the job successfully.] At last, in 1907, a Select Committee recommended that the reporting of debates should be entirely taken over by the Government. This recommendation was accepted, and in 1908 the appointment of an Editor of Debates and ten reporters to the House of Commons was announced. . .In 1909. . .appeared the first Official Report of the Debates in the House of Commons."(7)

The Canadian House of Commons has been publishing its official and verbatim record of debates since 1875, and therefore has a substantially longer history of this activity than the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster. Of the Canadian provinces, all but three publish some sort of verbatim record. Ontario has an unbroken record since 1944; B. C. did not start until 1970.* Prince Edward Island and Alberta record their proceedings on tape, and only make transcripts of

---

* See Appendix B for complete tabulation comparing the practices of the various provincial governments.

selected portions; no effort at formal 'publication' is undertaken. Newfoundland prepares an official record, but it is regarded as an internal document only, not for publication.

The present practice in Alberta dates from 1965, when a sound amplification system was installed in the Legislative Chamber. A Resolution was passed by the Legislature in that year requesting the Government to install sound recording equipment in conjunction with the amplification system, 'in order that a record of the proceedings be obtained on tape at all future Sessions of the Legislature.' These tapes are in the care of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, who is authorized to prepare from them 'a verbatim report of the speeches made by each Member of the House during the Throne Speech and Budget Debates and on such other occasions as the House may direct; and on request of a Member, the speeches or statements made at other times during the proceedings.' He is also authorized to charge 'for all copies over and above the first copy supplied free of charge to Members of the House'; such charges were established at 5¢ per page by Order in Council 265/65 (see Appendix C), which also sets out the full terms of the Resolution referred to above.

It has become customary, although not officially authorized, that the Question Period is automatically transcribed as a matter of priority on each sitting day. In addition, during the 1971 session transcripts were made of virtually everything that was said in the House while the Mace was on the Table, in an attempt to keep ahead of requests. In fact, this extra

Table 1

Breakdown of Requests by M.L.A.'s for Transcripts

This table shows the number of Government and Opposition M.L.A.'s making the indicated number of requests for transcripts.

No. of Requests	14	11	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Tot.
Government MLA's	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	4	4	2	13	25	55
Opposition MLA's	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	10
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	6	3	14	29	65

Table 2

Breakdown of Number of Copies per Request

No. of Copies Required	30	12	10	6	4	2	1	Total
Government Requests	1	2	1	2	2	2	89	99
Opposition Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	26
Total	1	2	1	2	2	2	115	125

burden on the transcription service meant that the task was not completed until nearly two months after the Session had prorogued.

The use that is made of this service may be judged from the following statistics. By the beginning of December, 1971, a total of 125 requests had been made by 36 Members for copies of speeches made during the 1971 Session, of which ten requests by eight Members were for multiple copies. 29 Members (out of 65) made no use of this service. Fourteen Members made only one request. The maximum number of requests made by any one Member was also fourteen (See Table 1). Nine requests were made by Government M.L.A.'s for every thirteen made by Opposition Members.

The maximum number of copies of any one item requested by any one person was thirty. Apart from this, all requests were for twelve copies or less (See Table 2). This, of course, reflects the fact that other methods of bulk reproduction cost less than 5¢ per page; no information has been gathered on the number of reprints which members may have had printed for distribution to their constituents or elsewhere. Sixteen copies were requested by Government M.L.A.'s for every thirteen requested by Opposition Members.

The total revenue from sale of other than first copies to M.L.A.'s was $49.25. Additional revenue of $43.30 was realized from the sale of transcripts to others, of which $19.25 came from the Premier's Office, $12.25 from the City of Edmonton, and $6.30 from the University of Calgary.

It is obvious that the general public is deriving no direct benefit from the service.

The Clerk is now consigning the tapes to the Provincial Archivist for safe keeping at the end of each session. They are available for consultation by any member of the public, but for a small technical detail: the Provincial Archivist has not yet been provided with a tape machine which will play back tape recorded at 15/16 inch per second. However, in the two years the collection has been in the hands of the Archivist, no one has asked to use any of the tapes, so this has presented no problem.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Unless one is seriously considering a return to the practices of pre-Restoration England, in which case the doors should be barred and all publication terminated, the question at issue is really whether coverage of legislative proceedings by the news media, together with an official audio recording on magnetic tape, adequately meets the needs of those who have cause to know or to study what transpires in the Legislature, or whether some steps should be taken by the Government to augment these measures. Breaking this down into its component parts, information is required as to:

(1) What media coverage is available;

(2) What would be the effect on media coverage and the House generally if the existing rules were to be changed;

(3) Who needs information relating to legislative proceedings when, and in what form;

(4) How close current practice comes to satisfying these needs;

(5) What steps are available to the Legislature, and what would they cost;

(6) How might the Legislature justify these expenses, in terms of the importance of the needs to be met and the other demands upon the public purse.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

(1) Existing Media Coverage

To be entitled to report the proceedings of the Alberta Legislature, one must at present be a member of the Press Gallery Association, a structured and respected organization consisting of the accredited representatives of the news media. Membership is available to almost any bona fide reporter willing to conform to the rules of the Association, although some difficulty has recently been met in deciding where to draw the line. Does the monthly publication of a professional association, or the house organ of a large employer, qualify on the same basis as the daily newspaper or the community radio station, and if not, why not? Only those sitting in the press gallery are allowed to take notes, and only those who are members of the Association are allowed in the press gallery.

No form of record other than notes may be made even by Members of the press gallery; no reporter may bring a tape recorder into the gallery. Any reports that are carried by the media of proceedings in the House are therefore the product of the memory and the note taking skills of the

reporters; they are the first to recognize the hazards of such procedures, and their own susceptibility to human failure.

These restraints are of course the legacies of the traditional reluctance of parliaments to be reported; it is said that the press gallery is situated above and behind Mr. Speaker so that he may conveniently ignore its existence.

The press is still "bound to report parliamentary proceedings accurately and to observe and respect the legitimate privileges of Parliament and its members."(8) Numerous cases may be cited in which Parliaments in various parts of the world, since 1945, have proceeded against persons who have transgressed in this respect. The Canadian House of Commons, has however, taken a far more lenient view, and at least in reporting on its activities, Canadian newspapers have been permitted to print items which would scarcely have been tolerated elsewhere.(9) This may well be because Canadian M.P.'s, being in most cases far removed from their constituents or (of more significance to party leaders) from the electorate as a whole, have come to rely on the news media as a primary means of communication, and much of what they say may be directed more to the gallery than to their colleagues; they are therefore reluctant to take any steps to stifle or mute the means by which the voter may determine how to cast his next ballot. Whether or not this has a desirable effect upon the performance of Parliament is a matter for individual judgment.

Existing media coverage therefore consists of:

(a) Reports in the daily press prepared from manual notes taken from time to time by reporters in the Press Gallery, supplemented by informal interviews with the main participants outside the House, and more formal press conferences called by either side.

(b) Reports on radio and television prepared in the same way as the daily press reports, the only taped or filmed comments being those recorded outside the House.

(c) Reports in the weekly press, which may either be identical to the choicest of the reports in the dailies, or more usually, a broader summary of the issues with particular emphasis on subjects of particular interest to the readership of each individual paper. Weeklies seldom, if ever, have their own reporters in the press gallery. They are therefore dependent on other sources.

(d) Editorial comment based on the above.

(e) Reports to constituents, more frequently found in rural weeklies than urban dailies, under the name of the local Member.

It might perhaps be noted that reporters must rely on their own judgment as to what may prove to be a significant debate. While attendance in the press gallery during the question period is often high, it may dwindle to nothing as the day wears on. Reporters may sit out a monotonous period in the press gallery lounge, catching up on press releases or sessional papers or in other pursuits. Without an extension speaker in that room, they must rely on one of their number in the gallery to let them know if anything of significance comes up unexpectedly.

(2) The Effect of Changing the Rules

With increasing pressure for more direct public involvement in the affairs of the Government, particularly with regard to radio and television coverage of the Legislature, a number of changes in existing practice may be considered. Among these are the following:

(a) Installation of External Speakers: A strong case can be made for providing extension speakers, linked to the House amplification and recording system, in certain locations. For instance, on the rare occasions when the galleries are full to overflowing, it should still be possible for those unable to find seats to hear what is being said through speakers situated outside the gallery doors. A case can be made, perhaps, for speakers in the offices of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, depending upon the calls on their time. Extension of this practice to other Member's offices or to the Members' Lounge can only be expected to lead to substantial numbers of empty seats in the House. A speaker in the office of the Clerk would be of considerable value in the preparation of the Orders Of The Day and of the Votes and Proceedings for printing. Speakers in the press gallery lounge may be resisted on the same grounds as would apply to Members' offices, but might be acceptable if gallery membership exceeds the seating capacity of the gallery itself.

It may be argued that Members should be able to see who is in the press gallery at any given time; however, those who believe that speeches should be made to the House and not to the press

will counter that it is of little importance whether reporters are visible or not.

(b) Admission of Tape Recorders: If the presence of reporters in the House is to be accepted, is it not reasonable to permit them to use any tools which will enable them to do their job more efficiently? Why should a newspaper reporter be denied the use of a tape recorder, which would let him verify the accuracy of a statement he wishes to report? If a newspaper reporter may use a tape recorder, and quote passages in his report, why should a radio reporter not do likewise?

Great concern is expressed by many people when mention is made of the broadcasting of excerpts of proceedings. It is true that, because of the impact of the broadcasting media, the effects of broadcasting specific statements out of context or other irresponsible uses of excerpts from debates, may be more serious than they would be in the printed press. To use this as an argument against the use of this means of developing public awareness is surely to assume that the broadcasting media are irresponsible and incapable of adhering to a code, either self imposed or drawn up in cooperation with the requisite authority. Such an assumption is perhaps more dangerous in itself. Much the same argument was used two hundred years ago when the admission of the press itself was in dispute. With adequate provision for calling those who show themselves not willing to adhere to a high standard of reporting to account, such fears have proved, for the

most part, groundless. It would seem to be unnecessary to go through the whole dispute again for the sake of radio reporters.

The only difference lies in the ability to police any real or imagined infraction of an accepted code. The newspaper supplies its own evidence, having the ability to survive its publication. Words once spoken on the air do not generally survive in a tangible form, except in the files of their publishers. Such records will doubtless be regarded with suspicion by anyone believing himself, perhaps as the result of a second-hand report, to have been wronged. The Government can not be expected to meet the cost of an agency which would make an official recording of every significant broadcast.

If tape recorders are to be admitted, it seems only reasonable that they should be able to pick up an electronic signal directly from the sound system through a jack. Outlets might also be provided in the press gallery lounge, again depending on the demands for space in the gallery itself.

(c) Admission of Television Cameras: The television camera is far more obtrusive than the microphone, and the impact of the screen greater than that of the radio loudspeaker. It is not, therefore, quite so simple to argue for the acceptance of television coverage as it is for radio. Nevertheless, television is considered by the media to be one of the family (See next page).

The physical problems may be minimized by allowing only one set of cameras in the House. This might be on a pooled basis,

Quotes from Correspondents
Concerning Radio and TV Coverage of the House

"As for the 'live' coverage of the Legislature in session, I believe that the daily question period, major debates, the budget speech, and so on should be covered, closed circuit, with a feed provided to all broadcast outlets. Material from these 'feeds' could then be edited and used at the discretion of the individual news programmes. . .[There should be] a common line charge for each outlet, regardless of proximity to the Legislature. . .The 'Broadcast Service' would have to be subject to some form of 'media council', to assure that the privilege was not abused." J. Peter Kent

"Radio or TV live broadcast? Why not? But I note your use of the word 'live'. Its use excludes the economic guts of TV, video tape, but it also precludes the possibility of editing. I think both radio and TV should be allowed in to tape and to edit as they see fit. . ." William F. Gold

"Giving the electronic media the right to televise and tape record any segments of the Legislative Assembly would be the biggest step as far as the Government and the public is concerned." Bruce W. Hogle

"We have placed it on the record that we would like the availability of being able to place our tape recorders and cameras in the House. At the same time we have stressed that it should be our perogative that, certainly in the news portions of our programming, we would select the film items and audio portions for use." D. E. Adams

"The Western Catholic Reporter has been in favour for some time of television coverage of the Legislative Debates." (See Appendix A) Douglas J. Roche

"Legislative proceedings could be televised/ broadcast live - but editorial discretion should remain with the media." Richard Bronstein

worked out among the media themselves, or could be provided by the Government, which could then keep a taped record, on a short term basis, for educational or other uses. A cost sharing agreement could be worked out with the stations which wanted to make use of the facility.

Two problems remain. The first requires agreement as to what would not constitute acceptable use of filmed material. It would be quite possible, for instance, to put together a sequence of film clips showing Members who did not, at that moment, have the floor, but were engaged in other activities, such as reading the newspaper, whispering to their neighbour, writing letters, waving to someone in the gallery, or even apparently snoozing, which, taken as a whole without comment, would tend to present an uncomplimentary image of the behaviour of Members in the House.

The second consists of the temptation to play to the cameras, or to grandstand. Although there is nothing new in this, for the temptation exists with reporters in the press gallery, it is perhaps more keenly felt with the television camera. On the other hand, the presence of the camera may serve to cause Members to hesitate before rising to state 'facts' they are not quite sure of, or to say or do something which they might later regret. In Nova Scotia, a local television station (it happens to be the CBC) has been allowed to mount cameras in the galleries, and to film any part of the proceedings of the House at its discretion.

The Director of the CBC for the Maritime Provinces,

Mr. S. R. Kennedy, writes,

"I should point out at the very beginning that our broadcasting of the Legislative Assembly Session in Nova Scotia last February was in the nature of an experiment only. For some two years previously Mr. Gregg (who will be writing you further) had been in touch with the Government trying to interest them in such an experiment, having been successful in instituting regular film coverage of the Halifax and Dartmouth City Council meetings. Interest had been expressed by the previous Progressive Conservative Government under Premier G. I. Smith and the suggestion had a certain amount of support from the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Regan. A Committee of the House was formed to consider the matter further, but an election intervened and as you know, as of a year ago last October, a Liberal Government under Mr. Regan has been in power. The matter was raised again with the new Premier, the Leaders of the two Opposition Parties and the Speaker of the House, with the result that an experiment was agreed upon for a short session during the month of February. I repeat again, that all concerned agreed that the matter was to be in the nature of an experiment only, with the CBC providing the remote equipment (electronic cameras and video-tape not film cameras). CBC equipment was used, CBC employees handled the equipment, and audio and video feeds were made available from a central mixing point to all radio and television stations in the city.

There was some live coverage, particularly during the question period on Thursday afternoons, but on the whole both television stations concentrated largely on delayed coverage. CBHT, our Halifax transmitter, spent fifteen to twenty minutes each night on an edited version of that afternoon's session. It had been laid down to the members of the various Committees of the Assembly and the leaders of parties that we would under no circumstances undertake the experiment if there was to be any attempt at censorship or editing by a Committee of the House. As a result, all stations involved had the right from the beginning to use as little or as much of the coverage as they wished and to edit it in any manner they wished to so do in the same way as any Parliamentary reporting journalist would edit his copy.

> No arrangements have been made for further coverage of the Nova Scotia Legislature so far. It is understood that should the House decide that it is in its best interests to have radio and television broadcasting on a live or delayed basis in the future, it will be its responsibility to provide the necessary equipment for pick-up and live distribution to the interested radio and television stations."

These programmes are apparently well received and widely watched; after an initial period, Members ignored the presence of the cameras, and the effect on the conduct within the Chamber has been minimal. It was apparently recognized that attempts at grandstanding were both not appreciated by fellow Members and ignored by the producers of the broadcasts.

On the credit side, a number of people are lamenting the fact that the TV corridor interview has encouraged certain individuals to by-pass Parliament. An M.P. writes,

> "There have been blatent examples of where one thing was said in the House and something else was said outside; what was said outside was that which was put out to the public. It was much more acceptable. In other instances, there was an outright refusal to say something in the House, and it was kept for some formal declaration on television."

In summary, it appears that one's attitude to the possibility of radio and television coverage in the House will depend on the faith one has in the responsibility of the media and the Members of the House. It might also be noted that, if TV cameras are allowed in, the newspapers will expect the right to take photographs. If this can be done from the galleries without flash bulbs or other obtrusiveness, it is difficult to see why it should not be allowed.

(d) Provision for Live Broadcasts: Those who have had any experience with live broadcasting of Legislative debates are seldom in favour of this practice (see page 28). Except for special occasions, they say that such programmes are dull, and lack public appeal. There would therefore be little interest on the part of the stations in carrying such broadcasts on a public service basis.

The only alternatives are for the government to buy time from the stations, or to provide its own broadcasting facilities, both of which are very expensive. The Saskatchewan Government buys time from radio stations throughout the Province for its legislative broadcasts; they have no figures available concerning the size of the audience these programmes draw.

If stations are to be allowed to use film excerpts for TV news coverage of the Legislature, there seems no reason why they should not be able to broadcast live those portions of the proceedings that they believe will have sufficient public appeal. Until, however, a demand can be stimulated in other ways, it would seem unreasonable to consider full scale live broadcasting.

(e) Public Note-taking and Its Consequences: Perhaps a small diversion may be permitted at this point, to consider one tradition which seems to stand in the way of current trends.

As mentioned earlier, a three hundred year old Resolution of the House of Commons at Westminster forbids the taking of any

Quotes from Correspondents
Re Live Broadcast Coverage

"Broadcast the whole works day in and day out and the audience reaction would surely be reflected in the refusal of any broadcast agency to be saddled with it. With radio there might be better hope than with TV but not much. Subvert any provincial educational channel to this purpose and the Herald, among many others, will fight tooth and nail. Let radio-TV in, let them tape, and let them edit. They can always be thrown out, if the evidence is good enough." William F. Gold

"From experience in Saskatchewan, where TV and radio coverage was attempted of the legislative proceedings, I feel that it very often didn't do the job intended. Too often Members used it to 'make political hay' and their discourses during debates had nothing to do with the legislation at hand. In short, it became a very expensive political forum which often delayed the passing of legislation." G. N. Manning

"I am certainly against live broadcasts on Radio or Television of the Legislature. I was with the station in Saskatchewan which originated live Radio programming and it was dull, lacklustre, and of little interest to anyone whatsoever." Bruce W. Hogle

"The proceedings in the legislature should be available for live broadcast on radio or television . . Looking down the road, we can foresee in the near future a time of multiple channels, some of which will be devoted to public broadcasting and educational television. This is a natural outlet for live proceedings in the legislature. Similarly, there is a growing number of radio stations concerned with public matters, and I am confident that, even now, both radio and TV would be interested in live coverage, particularly of the more important debates at the outset and gradually developing a public taste for the legislative process.

The effect of such broadcasting would be to raise the quality of debate, for the simple reason that members would be aware that their performance would be seen and heard beyond the halls of the legislature."

Douglas J. Roche

"Live broadcasting? Certainly when the issues are judged to be important enough. As to how many citizens would tune in, that's something else. I believe it should be possible for them to have this opportunity, that a channel could be made available for continuous broadcasting of the session." D. E. Adams

"You are probably aware that, as far as broadcasting the legislative proceedings live via radio or TV, the daily work of government can be a frightful bore after the daily question period is over.

Ontario, for the first time other than the Throne Speech, allowed live coverage of the provincial budget and the subsequent debate by the two opposition parties. This proved to be successful as most citizens are interested in tax hikes and the like.

Other than these special items of government, the Prime Minister and other advisors felt it would be a waste of time and money to televise the House on a day to day basis.

We found that citizens concerned with legislative proceedings are but a handful, unless it is election time. Take a look at the public galleries when there are no school children visiting and you will find them nearly empty." Bruce Powley

"Live broadcasting on radio and TV would be ridiculous even if it were not astronomically expensive. A minority of people would probably watch only highlights of the big debates such as budget, or would tune in for sensational business." Graham Smith

notes of proceedings in the House. The dispensation granted two hundred years ago to the Press gives members of the Press Gallery a privileged position, which is jealously guarded; indeed if any one of them should spot someone in the Public Gallery taking notes, a series of messages is sent via the floor of the House to the Commissionaire in the gallery, who will ask the offender to desist or leave.

At the same time, none of the reporters contacted during this study were prepared to argue in favour of this privilege. They agreed, for instance, that a member of the executive of an organization interested in a particular piece of legislation should be able to take notes so as to be better able to report back to his associates.

If this tradition is to be dispensed with, the Press Gallery will be deprived of one of its prime reasons for existing - unless, of course, other changes are also made. For instance, it might be advisable to grant only to members of the Press Gallery the right to use tape recorders, or to have access to a pooled TV signal; perhaps they and they alone should have the right to receive for a fixed fee, perhaps $50.00, one copy of all duplicated sessional papers; these would of course be available to others at whatever price was set for them, the total cost of which would be expected to exceed this subscription fee. This

would ease another point of contention; in the past one or two copies of a tabled report have been given to the Press Gallery, and are snapped by whoever happens to see them first; others claim that they have great difficulty laying their hands on what supposedly is a public document.

On the subject of the distribution of public documents to the news media, some consideration should be given to the weekly papers and out-of-town broadcasters, who would also like access to these reports, but at present find themselves at a distinct disadvantage in bringing news of the Legislature to their public. There is also a distinct need for some coordination of Government publications; it is at present impossible for anyone to find out what is being published, and where it is available.

The result of possible rule changes, then, would be to make it easier for newspapers to carry more reliable (thanks to the tape recorder) and more dramatic (through the use of photographs) reports, for the public to obtain some first hand impression of happenings in the Legislature without having to travel to Edmonton, through broadcasts on radio and TV of at least the more interesting items of business, and, for those of the public who do take the time to sit in one of the galleries to feel less that they are intruding on the proceedings, and more that they do indeed have the right to be there. It has recently been suggested that all restraints on the behavior of 'strangers' should be removed, so that

applause and other expressions of approval or otherwise would be permitted from the galleries. Such suggestions do not seem to evoke much support, at least at this point in time.

The effect of such changes on the business of the House and the conduct of individual members is a matter on which there is no agreement. It may be that the conduct of Members depends more on what their colleagues are prepared to tolerate, and what is traditionally accepted in that House, than on the presence of reporters or television cameras.

(3) Who Needs What, How, and When

There are eight identifiable groups of people who may derive some particular benefit from having access to detailed information about the proceedings in the Legislature. If these proceedings are to be published, the mode of publication should take the needs of these eight groups into consideration, and should attempt to satisfy as many of them as possible.

Starting from the time a speech is made in the House, these groups may be looking for their information in approximately the following order:

(a) M.L.A.'s: Obviously entitled to priority in access to any published record, Members can make use of this information in a variety of ways. Hansard reports are frequently quoted in the course of debates. Also, concerning his own speeches, a Member may wish to verify that he said what he meant to say; he may realize in retrospect that his words were liable to misinterpretation. He may wish to draw his remarks to the attention of one or more people, possibly as many of his constituents as possible.

A fellow Member may have made a statement, the validity of which he doubts, so he may wish to refer the matter to a friend or a constituent, expert in that subject, for confirmation, comment, or a different point of view. He may spot a difference between statements made by one person on two different occasions, and wish to point out the inconsistency.

Charged with replying to a major speech from the other side, he will doubtless want to analyse that speech in detail, so that his own remarks may be as factual and forceful as possible. He may even want to see what sort of political hay he can make out of it.

A record of the proceedings on tape in the Clerk's office is of little use to him. Of course he can arrange to have it played back, but he can hardly be allowed to take it home with him to work on overnight. A major disadvantage of tape is that it takes as long to review as it did to record - there is no easy way to scan through the trivia, and to dwell on a passage of peculiar significance.

Most of the Members needs are almost immediate - he would like to get his hands on the record as soon as possible. If he must speak tomorrow in reply to a speech made today, a transcript available next week is of little use.

On the other hand, for his immediate use he is not concerned about style, format, or binding. This is a working copy, not for his library shelves.

(b) Press Gallery: Representatives of the news media have to keep their reports as topical as possible. The radio stations often broadcast reports 'filed' by telephone. Instant information is the name of the game.

Limited as they are at present to pen and paper to provide themselves with a source for their copy, they would warmly welcome an official record (see next page). But if they could make their own tape recordings, would this change the situation?

As mentioned earlier, tape recordings are not very well suited to use as reference material, or as the source of printers' copy. At some point a transcript has to be made, and it is more sensible to have this done once rather than many times over.

Reporters are quite content to use a draft copy of a transcript, even if it is not accorded official status. The general understanding on which these are provided is 'publish at your peril' - that is, if the draft happens to contain an error which is quoted in a newspaper, the newspaper is subject to any action the House may consider appropriate in a case of inaccurate reporting. The value of a tape recorder is then that it permits verification of any passage where the reporter's memory conflicts with the draft transcript.

(c) Weekly Press: Most weekly newspapers do not maintain Press Gallery Membership. Their needs are somewhat different from those of the daily press and broadcasters, and they experience considerable difficulty in obtaining the information they feel they need to do their job properly. However, in terms of their ability to inform significant numbers of people in depth about matters of particular concern and importance, they serve a very important function. They should not be ignored.

Quotes from Correspondents
Concerning the Value of an Official Record to the Press Gallery

"Ideally, it would be nice to have Hansards of yesterday's Legislative proceedings for all M.L.A.'s as well as the News media and the public. . .Cost would be a determining factor.

I think news coverage of all sessions of the Legislature are excellent, but a printed record of what transpired would certainly be good for reference purposes." Bruce W. Hogle

"Ottawa provides instant, albeit 'unofficial' transcripts to the press gallery every 40 minutes or so. I do not think anything of the sort is required for responsible news coverage in Alberta. Quite apart from the formidable costs which must be involved, certain reportorial evils result [such as relying on the transcripts rather than attending the sessions].

However, I do believe that when a speech of consequence, as determined by the reporter, is made, the reporter should be entitled by right to a transcript relatively quickly. A little inconvenience might serve as discipline; a six or eight hour time lag perhaps, and the necessity to present oneself at an obscure office. . .

No man can sit through all debates, and swift transcription recovers valuable material that would otherwise be missed." William F. Gold

"I feel that Ontario's system, outside of the House of Commons, is the best in Canada. [Because of delays in printing and distribution,] the printed Hansard was useless to the media. What was supplied to Gallery members was a rough copy. . .This was usually in the press lounge in a matter of hours for the news media to check back on direct quotes and so on. This form was useful." Bruce Powley

"Would $20 be a reasonable subscription fee? Certainly, if there were immediate service. Promptness is imperative." Ted Bower

"As a working journalist it would be much handier to have a Hansard than to clip the newspapers. Much more accurate, too. It would be a valuable reference source to develop themes, and to keep a watch on the politicians and to hold them to their word. And nothing short of an authoritative Hansard would do."

Richard Bronstein

"From a media standpoint we would appreciate the opportunity of being able to go to this source as an official check point for statements made during debate."

D. E. Adams

Their needs are met neither by taped records stored in Edmonton, nor by sporadically available transcripts at 5¢ per page. A column prepared by the local M.L.A. (or perhaps his party office), as suggested in one of the cited quotations (see opposite) would be an improvement, but leaves the decision as to what is important to the politician rather than the editor. Little other than a full transcript, available with reasonable dispatch, will really satisfy the editor who makes a sincere effort to provide objective coverage of legislative news.

(d) Civil Service: Among the numerous functions of senior members of the civil service are the drafting of statutes and their amendments, and the drafting of regulations to give effect to the intent of statutes. In many instances, it has been found valuable to have available a comprehensive record of debate on the topic in question, both to ensure that proposed legislation suits the situation that generated the need for that legislation, and that it is sufficiently comprehensive. In the case of regulations, the objections raised to the legislation in debate may give valuable indicators to situations which must be provided for, or potential inequities which must be avoided.

It must be admitted that opinions differ from province to province as to the usefulness of transcripts in this application. No attempt was made to survey deputy ministers either here or in other provinces for their opinions. However, it was mentioned in one or two cases, particularly Quebec, as a major use of the published record.

Quotes from Correspondents
Regarding the Problems Faced by the Weekly Press

"In general terms I would favour the printing of a Hansard. . .

At present we receive scads of news releases from the legislature, sometimes as many as five or six per day, which I am sure require much time on the part of several people employed in the publicity department of the government.

I would dare say that perhaps 10% of these releases are of any use to a weekly newspaper.

I would much rather have the M.L.A. of our constituency prepare, through his office in the legislature, relevant reports to his constituents on the basis of a weekly column." Karl Mueller

"Having received the House of Commons Hansard for several years, I finally discontinued using it because of the format - too much material with inadequate indexes for identifying relevant and cogent material."
J. A. Barnhill

"I am strongly in favour of a Hansard publication. I make frequent reference to the Hansard reports from Ottawa. They are essential.

In the past I have experienced difficulty and frustration trying to follow debates in Edmonton. I was not even receiving annual reports and papers tabled in the House. I was refused a copy of a report which had been distributed to reporters in the press gallery.

Weekly newspapers cannot rely on the daily press. Even if the daily press provided good coverage, I have no intention of producing a pale imitation one week late. We are in competition." Graham Smith

"I must say that [Hansards] have been most helpful for review purposes and in bringing the exact reports to our readers." Charles E. Dojack

In this case, access to a complete set of records going back several years will be required, so that reference can be made to previous occasions on which a subject has been discussed, as well as to the current debate. Something more permanent than loose Xeroxed sheets will therefore be needed; a document, well indexed, that can be referred to at short notice would be best appreciated.

It is perhaps significant that, wherever a Hansard is published, about half the copies printed go to Government departments.

(e) Industry, Commerce, and the Professions: Although no jurisdiction has apparently made any effort to produce a statistical breakdown of the list of subscribers to its Hansard-type publication (leaving an interesting subject for a political science research paper), most of the subscribers to such publications appear to be corporate, rather than individual.

The Editor of the Westminster Hansard writes, "I have no analysis of the people who subscribe to it . . . I would surmise that the subscribers consist mainly of newspapers and periodicals, institutions, associations (commercial, trade, scientific, trade union, etc.), libraries, and local political parties."

A very brief scan through the file of subscription orders from Alberta at Information Canada, which now distributes the Ottawa Hansard, seemed to indicate that for each subscription

from an individual, there were at least four from law firms, legal departments of oil companies and other large firms, organizations, and so on.

Such subscribers are presumably interested in matters which have a direct bearing on their corporate activities. If a bill under discussion urgently concerns them, they may well wish to contact their MP or MLA to ensure that their position is heard in debate.

Their interest is two-fold. They are interested in current debates, so that they can react quickly to proposals before the House, and they are also interested in records from previous years, so that they can refer to what has gone before in the preparation of position papers, etc. For the latter purpose, a comprehensive index would be a great assistance, and to save library space, microfilm would probably be more acceptable than paper.

(f) The Public: Among what many consider to be the most important group of potential readers of a parliamentary record, there is at present very little interest. Efforts to obtain some sort of public reaction to the possibility of publishing the proceedings of the Alberta Legislature were almost in vain. News items and editorials in newspapers all over the province, discussing the fact that this report was being prepared and giving an address to which people could write, resulted in only two letters. A lengthy interview which was broadcast on both radio and television

in Edmonton, provoked one response. Numerous people said, "I saw you on television over the weekend!" but when asked how they felt on the subject, could give no opinion. Half an hour on a Calgary open-line show produced two calls with opinions to register, and one letter.

One of the two callers was strongly opposed to any expenditures on publishing the proceedings, on the grounds that the money would be better spent in other ways, such as easing the burdens of welfare and unemployment.

Those who wrote were solidly in favour.

> "I was very surprised on arriving in this Province to find there was no 'Hansard' available. Of course it is a necessity in a democracy."

> "It is axiomatic that what takes place in the legislature is one of the most important matters in the Province. Seeing that those discussing the matters are the elected members of the people, I believe that it is imperative that their debates and discussions be available verbatim to the general public for their own interpretation and not for someone else's biased or misinterpreted opinion."

At the same time, it was suggested that the reason for public apathy is that they simply are not aware that such documents as Hansard are available to them.

> "I get Ottawa's Hansard, but I am willing to bet that not one in a hundred people know of its availability."

Another reason suggested for the general lack of interest on the part of the public is that the average citizen feels powerless to do anything significant to change the course of events, and therefore feels that any effort taken to maintain

more than a token awareness of parliamentary events is pointless. This would perhaps suggest that greater efforts should be made by M.L.A.'s to provide their constituents with the opportunity to talk to them, not superficially, but seriously and perhaps in private, about matters of personal or general concern. The media could contribute immensely towards a public awareness of such efforts.

Another possible explanation is the lack of confidence, mentioned earlier, with which many people are believed to regard the parliamentary process. A minority is reacting radically; others are simply 'turned off'.

Many people feel that they have quite enough paper thrown at them already, and would not appreciate more reading material coming through their letterbox every day, however important it was. This consideration prompted the suggestion that a service should be established by Alberta Government Telephones, permitting people to dial a number either to hear, live, a current debate, or to request a replay of a speech of particular interest. This idea has evoked a wide range of reactions, some in favour, others violently opposed. Upon investigation, it develops that it would be hideously expensive to implement at present; it is, however, something to be borne in mind for the future, if cable TV does not first offer the same service. It is generally agreed, even by the most fervent supporters of the publication of Hansard, that much of its contents are bound to

make uninspiring reading. What has the greatest chance of being of interest to the average voter is a selective service that will permit him to subscribe to and to receive just those parts of the record that deal with a subject, a bill, or a portion of the proceedings of particular interest to him. It may be noted here that no one is yet offering such a service, but that it is not beyond the scope of possibility, if use is made of up-to-date techniques. Even this suggestion evokes a wide difference of opinion (see opposite).

The fact that few people appear to be interested is a poor argument against providing something to those who are, if they are entitled to it. Other aspects must then decide the question. One way to make a published record available to the public without burdening them with the cost or volume of material resulting from a personal subscription is through the Public Library system, which is already supported by the provincial Government. The range of viewpoints among public librarians are represented by these two contrasting excerpts from correspondence received during this study: -

"I have consulted with the department heads [in the Calgary Public Library] involved in this area, and they advise me that, as far as Ottawa is concerned, there is very little demand for this type of publication unless interest is aroused on a national basis on some specific topic such as abolition of capital punishment, abortion law, etc. It is their belief that people generally receive enough information to satisfy them from the daily newspapers. . .

Quotes from Correspondents
Concerning the Merits of Selective Subscriptions

"I would not make special passages available if Hansard were published." Graham Smith

"With the availability of computers, it might well be feasible to select. . .people would be requested to select the various topics they wish to have sent to them. Computer technology could do the rest."
J. A. Barnhill

"It goes without saying that anyone should be able to request copies of selected passages on a charge per page basis, but here again I emphasize the need for making the entire debates available at a low rate."
Douglas J. Roche

"Selected passages on a charge per page is a terrible idea. It just discourages involvement by the public." Richard Bronstein

> It is also their opinion that a provincial Hansard-type publication would be more in demand than a federal publication, simply because the people in Calgary are basically more interested in what happens in Edmonton than in Ottawa. Again, they are of the opinion that the local newspapers carry enough information to satisfy most people."
>
> "While working in the Calgary Public Library, I was often asked for information which would have been supplied by a Provincial Hansard, but instead had to rely on newspaper accounts of the proceedings. I always told people that it was possible to obtain an account of the debates from Mr. MacDonald, but suspect the price of these accounts put most of them off. Such a publication would be of great value in our Libraries, no matter what size, and of especial value to schools, colleges, and universities. How else can the public know what is happening in government?"

Lethbridge Public Library reports "fair use of Debates of the Commons and Senate (Canada)", but "no queries in the past six years for Alberta proceedings". Red Deer says, "People are very interested in the Ottawa Hansard if there is something controversial underway. The number who are interested is small, but for these few they are the 'Bible'."

For the larger libraries, microfilm would be a convenient form of publication for long term custody. Smaller libraries are not yet equipped with microfilm readers, and all agree that the printed form is more convenient for immediate reference.

(g) Students of Current Affairs: The editor of the Westminster Hansard writes, "I find some evidence of its use in the senior forms of schools and colleges." Information Canada has a few schools on its subscription lists. Little is done in Alberta at present to familiarize students with government procedures or

practices, other than through a trip to the Legislative Buildings at the elementary level.

With increased emphasis on current affairs, and particularly the encouragement given to senior students to study, at some depth, subjects of topical concern, it would seem that some record of legislative debates has a real and important place in the school system.

Some indication has been given that officials of the Department of Education would be most interested in using video-tapes, if they were available, as a major part of instructional material kits dealing with specific current topics, which would then be distributed throughout the province. A printed record would be an essential additional component of such kits. One of Alberta's few private schools has indicated that it would welcome an Alberta Hansard for use in its new 'practical politics' course.

Again, some ability to distribute portions of the record selectively, on the basis of subject matter, would be a distinct advantage, not only in terms of saving production costs, but also to increase the probability that the material would be read and used.

The Law Library at the University of Alberta reports very considerable interest on the part of law students in legislative records, and many are extremely disappointed to find that none are available for Alberta. Much more attention is being given than in the past to the investigation of the origins and the development of legislation. A Journal that does no more than indicate that Bill X was given third reading on Day Y is clearly of little value in such studies, although such information is a useful adjunct. In fact, the need for a periodic (weekly would be adequate) listing of the progress of bills through the Legislature was indicated very emphatically. Apparently many law firms now spend considerable time and effort producing their own, since no such information is currently published in concise and convenient form by the Government.

(h) Students of History: The value of a full transcript of legislative debate as an archival record is inestimable. It cannot be denied that, with every day the Legislature sits and with every motion it passes, a little bit of history is made. Who can say how significant this is going to be five, ten, or fifty years from now?

Historians are unanimous that such records are 'indispensible' (See Appendix D). While tape recordings of debates are recognized as being better than nothing, their adequacy is questionable:

> "A tape will not necessarily store well for years; it is one of a kind, and vunerable to destruction, accidental or contrived; it is not right there, within reach of the person who wishes it. And it may be meddled with and transformed. Printing conducted with sufficient speed that even hostile contemporary memories are satisfied as to accuracy gets around the hypotheses and suspicions."
> (William F. Gold, in correspondence to the author.)

Archivists set high standards to establish the authenticity of such records, and it is not even certain that the records which accompany the tapes now in storage would meet these standards. This is not to suggest that they have been tampered with, but simply that it will be difficult for a researcher fifty years from now (should the tapes last that long) to be absolutely certain that the sequence of sounds he hears is identical to the

passage of events in the House, because the record does not show that there was absolutely no opportunity for anyone to tamper with it.

It should also be noted that tape is inconvenient to use unless one knows exactly what one is looking for. It is not easy to browse through, to scan, or to study in detail (without transcription).

Historical interest in a record may not materialize for a considerable period of time. In the interim, the record and others like it must be stored. One only needs to cast one's eye round the Legislative Library to realize that this takes a considerable amount of storage space. Serious consideration should therefore be given to microfilm, which is more economical to produce and to store. It has been proved capable of withstanding the tests of time, and although it requires a special reader to make it usable, is becoming a standard medium of publication for reference materials. Perhaps the most convenient form of microfilm for this purpose is the microfiche, an example of which is shown, in actual size in Figure 1. This small sheet contains 98 pages of text, enough to report three legislative sittings of three hours each. It can be reproduced at a cost of 50¢, or as low as 15¢ in quantities of 250. Up to six of these sheets can be mailed for the minimum tariff.

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Communication for Decision-Makers. (34th Annual Meeting, Denver, Colo.). pp. 100-209
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FIGURE 1

A microfiche sheet, actual size.

This report, except for its Appendices, would fit onto one such sheet.

Commentating on the value of a Hansard to historians, Dr. L. H. Thomas, Professor of History and formerly Provincial Archivist for Saskatchewan, wrote as follows: -

> "Insofar as a record of this type, supplemented by ministerial and departmental policy files, is available for research, a wide variety of administrative historical investigations can be undertaken. These have the practical value of demonstrating the strength or weakness of previous administrative and legislative activity. They also permit new recruits to the public service to view activities as part of an ongoing process of importance to the life of the province.
>
> Verbatim sound recordings of selected addresses by various political leaders should be preserved for future use in the preparation of audio-visual teaching materials as well as programs for public consumption. Obviously, for this purpose, not all sound recordings need be preserved and the selection could be assigned to the Provincial Archivist." (See also Appendix E)

(4) Do Current Practices Satisfy These Needs?

It is obvious that the tapes stored in the Provincial Archives are at present satisfying nobody's needs, except perhaps those of the historian of tomorrow, simply because no one is using them. This may simply be because no one knows they are there, available for use; yet this seems unlikely. They are not easily accessible to anyone living outside Edmonton; they are unique, so that the Archivist would be rightly concerned that they should come to no harm in use, and would therefore be very cautious about permitting their use. Although a good chronological index accompanies them, this has not been crossindexed, neither does it contain any indications of subject matter. One must therefore know precisely what one is looking for, or expect to have to spend considerable time looking for it.

The early official parliamentary records were made up from newspaper reports. Until the tape recording system was introduced in Alberta in 1965, the only source of information about the debates (as opposed to the official record of Votes and Proceedings, which has always been published as the Journal of the Legislative Assembly) was the newspapers, and the Provincial Librarian keeps a 'Newspaper Hansard' consisting of press clippings in his vaults.

The newspapers of today have dropped the habit of printing verbatim excerpts of debates, even those concocted by their own reporters, in favour of a freer reportorial style. Exceptions are sometimes found in such papers as the London Times or the Toronto Globe and Mail, which from time to time do include a column or two copied (now) from the official Hansard.

The newspapers do not claim to do the job of the official recorder, nor do they believe they should be expected to (see next page). Their function is to inform their readers on currently topical issues, not to provide a comprehensive historical record. This is not to say that newspapers do not have historic value; rather, this value lies in showing what was, at a particular point in time, of current interest. In retrospect, this may not have been the most significant issue of the times.

It should also be repeated under this heading that the news media as a whole are prevented from doing as good a job as they might by the prevailing rules, which stem from tradition rather than an objective appraisal of the benefits to be derived from modern technology. Also, as one correspondent points out, reporting of the provincial legislatures at least is left to journalistic neophytes: -

Quotes from Correspondents
Regarding the Adequacy of Press Coverage

"The public should certainly have access to these transcripts, and indeed they should be offered for sale at a nominal rate, as Hansard is offered, on a daily basis. The combination of the coverage provided by the media is not sufficient." Douglas J. Roche

"Coverage by the press is most important, but often the 'sensational' items are sought, rather than the work-a-day legislation. In this regard I wouldn't say that our press coverage is completely satisfactory, particularly when we have no way of having the facts, but are dependent on news releases which are often-times colored for political reasons." G. N. Manning

"Does the press provide adequate record of debates? Of course not. Its function is quite different from that of Hansard." Ted Bower

"The distortions of the early press barons have been replaced today by the cacaphony of the various media. The citizen faces an onslaught of information. He is told what to think on every side. If he is thoughtful he yearns to know the truth, what was really said, and by whom. In a multi-media atmosphere of second-guessing, instant analysis and warmed-up advice it is essential to the intelligent citizen that there be in some areas a bedrock of trust, something in which faith may be reposed. In provincial affairs an accessible, printed Hansard can fill this need. Endless words on tape which require some prior knowledge for their specific retrieval do not suffice. . .

. . .Public access: news coverage is not enough, not because it is deficient but because it is of necessity motivated by the transitory concerns and pressures of the day. It cannot be confused with a longterm absolute record. The tape is not sufficient."
William F. Gold

"Many people would like to know more about their governments, but where can they get a first hand view except in the newspapers, which are sometimes not oriented to do this specific job." L. L. Morris

> "The reason is simply this. Once a reporter acquires anything like the complexity of background information necessary for truly informative and intelligent description of administrative policy and legislative proceedings, he is worth far more to the government, or perhaps private industry, than any but the very largest metropolitan newspapers can possibly afford to pay him. Consequently there is a discernible path from press galleries and city rooms across the country into government and industrial public relations agencies, or even into the higher echelons of bureaucracy and the corporate world. These are the fellows who aught still to be covering the legislature, and could do it well, but the press lost them because the press (I think quite legitimately) could not afford to meet their price. Hence the galleries tend to be staffed by people on the way up and when they finally do discover what it is they're covering they disappear and a new apprentice takes over."

(5) Steps the Legislature Might Take, and Their Costs:

To begin with, consideration should be given to permitting those charged with reporting the proceedings to use all the tools of their trade, including tape recorders and cameras; this may involve, for the first time, official recognition of the media, and the development of a code of conduct to control the activities of those permitted to enter the press gallery. Any such code should obviously have teeth enough to ensure its adherence. Little in the way of cost to the government would ensue, other than minor expenditures for the installation of jacks for tape recorders.

The television stations would, it seems, be willing to share the costs of camera facilities among themselves, whether they establish their own facilities on a shared basis, or whether they pay for access to an official and comprehensive feed. Again, the 'media code' needs to establish what may be broadcast, and what sort of editorial conduct is to

be tolerated.

Thirdly, the Government should encourage the use by educators of the taped records which are already available, and of video tapes if they should be introduced. Further consideration should be given to the copying and distribution, perhaps to public libraries, of the audio tapes, so that they may be used by organizations or people interested in a specific speech or debate. The possibility of using the taped records to provide an individual enquiry service either through the telephone or cable television systems should not be forgotten, although neither is feasible at present. If public interest in the activities in the Legislature is stimulated in other ways, at some future point a reevaluation of the ways in which this interest can best be satisfied should be undertaken.

Fourthly, the Legislature may authorize the publication of an official record of its proceedings. This might take any one of a number of forms. It might appear daily, weekly, or only once per session. It might include the proceedings of committees of the whole House, or omit them. It might be edited in the style of Hansard, or be left as an unvarnished verbatim report. It might be indexed in detail by subject, simply by speaker, or not at all. Depending on the decisions made on these questions, the cost to the taxpayer for a twelve week session will run from $20,000 to $50,000. As the length of time the Legislature sits each year grows, this cost will increase proportionately. On the other hand, new technical developments give some promise of modest cost reductions. There is little chance that any but a small proportion of this cost can be recovered through subscriptions, particularly since most of the potential

subscribers are used to the heavily subsidized rates set by other governments. The establishment of a 'selective distribution' service should be carefully considered, in view of its appeal in a number of quarters.

Concern about the cost, particularly when funds are short, appears to be the main argument against the establishment of an official record. Running a close second is concern about the effects of such a record on the conduct of Members. The Clerk of the Assembly in one province expressed strong personal feelings that the establishment of the official record had given rise to the practice of speaking 'for the record', and that this had had a large part to play in extending the length of the Sessions.

One of the main reasons the Social Credit party in this Province has constantly resisted the introduction of an official printed record is said to be that it would lead to political bickering in the House, with unnecessary attention to minute implications of speech or choice of words.

There are also concerns that Members will indulge in a form of grandstanding, so that they can obtain reprints of speeches from the official record for distribution where they may be expected to do the most good.

A senior civil servant with considerable experience in the publication of government documents for public consumption writes,

> "If there was a widely distributed record of statement and/or attitude of the Members, it would tend to diminish the degree of 'good government' attitude on the members' part, and would encourage the popular approach or 'lowest offensive denominator' attitude by the members. Such an approach helps perpetuate elective office at the expense of public responsibility."

These arguments do indeed appear to have some substance, but one wonders if the situations described inevitably result from the existence of a record. Many provinces report very little speaking 'for the record'; bickering may be said to indicate the stature of the participants. This sort of effect seems to materialize only where it is permitted to do so: it is, however, difficult to prevent by formal rule or refulation. Rather it is governed by the more subtle ways in which people indicate their approval or otherwise of one another's behaviour, and by the example of those in positions of eminence.

As an argument in favour of a printed record, a former Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. Marcel Lambert, writes,

> "There is no doubt that a man has to be rather more careful about his words because they are down in black and white and there is a remarkable degree of responsibility, particularly on the government side, by ministers as to what was said. It also avoids some of the situations we have seen in provincial legislatures where government ministers, particularly in the absence of a Hansard or an electronically transcribed record, has taken to simply denying that they have ever said such and such a thing when they happen to be caught out. We have seen this happening on occasions and it allows a minister to be very careless, if not dishonest."

(6) Cost Justification:

Most parliamentarians do not see the need to justify the cost of publishing an official record (see Page 59). They are unable to imagine a responsible Legislature without one. But for the practical politician, particularly at a time when programmes are being cut back and finances are tight, some consideration of the justification of cost is essential.

Quotes from Correspondents
Regarding the Justification of Costs

"I would not justify the residual cost of such an operation for the taxpayers, but would certainly say that unless it could be done at an extremely reasonable cost then the entire matter should be completely forgotten inasmuch as the public is not that much interested." Bruce W. Hogle

"As for residual costs, surely in an age when every government department and every business minutely records its affairs for posterity, the Legislature of this province ought to have its debates on record. Where are our priorities, after all?" Ted Bower

"Can any reasonable citizen envision a Canadian Parliament without a Hansard?

If the answer be yes, are the deliberations of the Alberta Legislature worthy of, or important enough for, similar rendition?

If the first answer is 'no' it is impossible to talk further. If it is yes, then I submit the answer to the second question must be yes as well."

William F. Gold

"I would have thought that under a system of parliamentary democracy it is right that there should be available to the population a full report of its Parliament." L. D. W. Bear

"The costs of a Hansard should be self-liquidating, or, in other words, completely covered by revenues."

J. A. Barnhill

"Obviously the operation of printing [a Hansard] needs to be subsidized, and that would certainly be a legimate expense of the legislature." Douglas J. Roche

"The cost is easy to justify. It can be done the same way any government in Alberta can justify a $1.2 billion budget." Richard Bronstein

But how can you place a monetary value on a historical record? How much would it be worth, in cold hard dollars, to be able to study the debates leading up to the end of the Rutherford government? How much is it worth to the people of the province to enable embryo lawyers at University to study the development of legislation? How much better will Alberta be if it has a populace better informed about and more involved in events in the Legislative Chamber?

At $48,000 a year, the cost would amount to three cents per year per man, woman, and child in the province. It would be approximately one part in twentyfive thousand of the total provincial budget.

The Chief Returning Officer estimated that the 1971 election would cost the people of Alberta $1.6 million for official expenses, and this does not include campaign expenditures. Spread over four years this gives an annual cost of $400,000. If as taxpayers we spend this much to elect representatives to office, is it unreasonable to spend a further twelve percent of this amount to keep a record of what they say while they are there?

IV

HOW TO HANSARD

(1) Traditional Approach

The preparation of a Hansard basically consists of capturing the spoken word and converting it into a printed form. In this, it is not much different to the letter the secretary types from her boss's dictation, or the transcript of proceedings prepared by a Court Reporter. Nevertheless, a number of specific techniques are used in its preparation.

The traditional approach consists of the following steps (Figure 2):

(a) Shorthand recording, either manually or by 'touch shorthand' machine, in ten-minute 'takes';

(b) Transcription of shorthand records, by dictation (by the recorder) to a typist;

(c) Revision of the transcript, again by the recorder, while the proceedings he has just recorded are fresh in his mind;

(d) Further revision of assembled transcripts, if necessary, by the editorial staff, taking into consideration any suggestions by a Member, who is allowed to see the draft, that he has been misreported;

(e) Submission of the revised copy to the printer for type-setting;

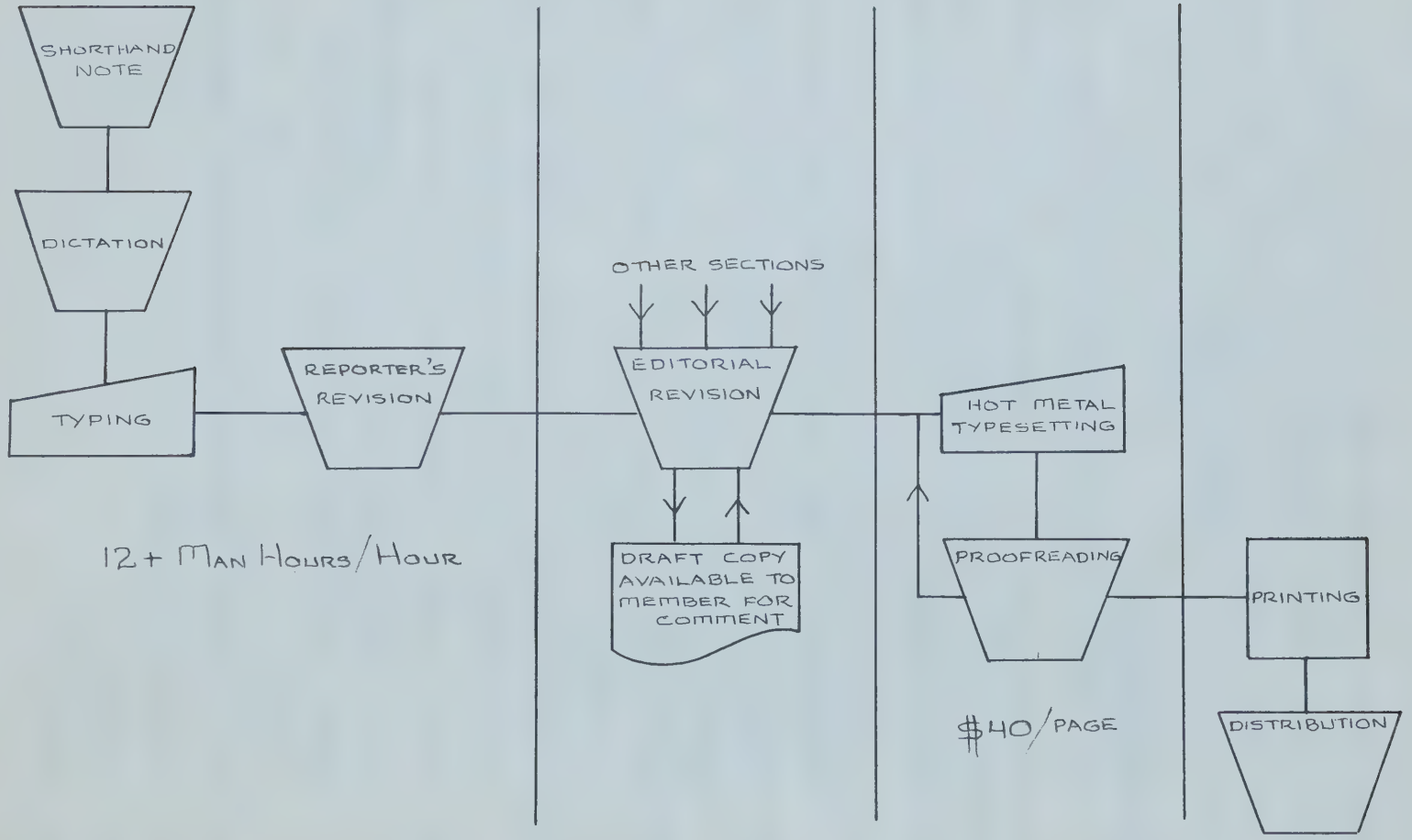
(f) Proofreading and correction;

(g) Printing;

(h) Distribution.

Figure 2

TRADITIONAL APPROACH TO HANSARD PRODUCTION



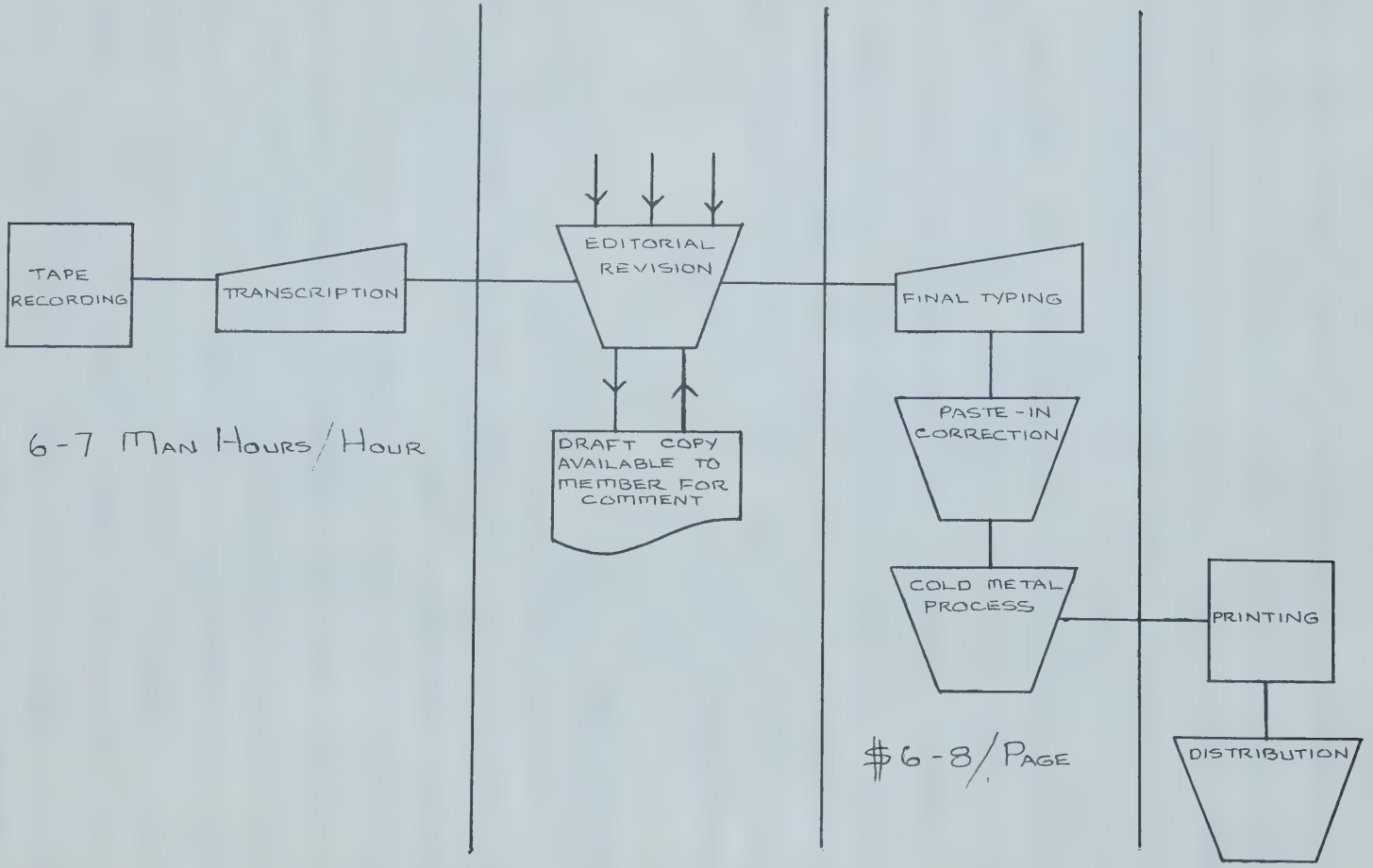
The costs involved in such an operation were (and are) centred in two areas. The input operation requires someone to 'handle' the entire proceedings four times; first, in taking it down in shorthand; second, in redictating the material, complete with punctuation, identification of speaker, and with preliminary polishing; thirdly, in typing out this dictated version (sometimes a recorder may type his own rather than dictating it, but this is unusual); fourthly, in revising the rough draft. This, in total, will require at least twelve man hours of labour for each hour of debate. At the other end of the process, typesetting requires a further handling of the complete text, to be followed by proofreading and correction. The printing bureau in Ottawa charges $40 per page to typeset the Canadian Hansard.

(2) New Techniques

Fortunately, modern developments have made it possible to eliminate much of this cost. The tape recorder has rendered the shorthand Hansard reporter superfluous. They still exist in Ottawa and London, clinging tenaciously to their jobs; however, in London 'it is foreseen that in the next two or three years recording will completely replace manual reporting; . . .the final Hansard reports, whether originating from a recording or a shorthand note, are comparable in every way in accuracy and sub-editing.' Photographic methods may be used to prepare printing plates from typed or other material, thus eliminating much of the cost involved with hot metal typesetting. Thus Figure 3 depicts the same operation, taking advantage of these techniques.

Figure 3

IMPROVED TECHNIQUE FOR HANSARD PREPARATION



This process can however be further improved and simplified, with many additional benefits in terms of lower cost, improved flexibility, and additional capabilities. The computer can be used for many things other than adding up dollars and cents. One of its abilities, which has not yet received adequate recognition, is its ability to store and process words and strings of words comprising text. Once stored in machine readable form, text can be modified by the computer with straight-forward and short instructions; computer programmes are in use which structure text for output according to prescribed rules, or on response to simple codes imbedded in the text - thus tabulation, indentation, underlining, line or page centering can all be accomplished with a minimum of effort; all or a specified part of a passage of text can be recovered from the computer in many different ways - on a typewriter, a visual screen, on a line printer at perhaps a thousand lines a minute, through a photocomposer which prepares printing plates with fully justified lines and variable letter spacings, or directly onto microfilm; the text may be analysed, and indexes prepared based on the occurence of words or phrases; information retrieval services may be offered by comparing words in the text to those of interest to a questioner. Output is not limited, as many assume from the reports they work with every day, to capital letters. Mixtures of lower and upper case characters pose few problems.

This is not blue sky speculation. Such systems are already in use. The Orders of the Day in Ottawa are now prepared using a computer; the Hansard operation may be expected to follow suit in due course. Statutes have been processed in this way for some years; Appendix F shows a

copy of part of a Bill introduced in the Manitoba Legislature in 1969, type for which was 'set' by computer. It is perhaps surprising that use has not been made of this tool in the preparation of Hansards before now. The Government of Alberta has two computing facilities available to it which could handle a Hansard assignment with no appreciable effect on their present loads, one in the Provincial Data Centre, the other at the University of Alberta.

A bottleneck still exists at the input end. To convert the spoken word to machine readable form still requires that the proceedings be transcribed, although this may be done through a computer terminal which, to the operator, is virtually indistinguishable from a typewriter. Even this problem is being overcome, and within a year or so (and possibly even now) additional economies in time and effort will be possible. Four different companies are reported to be working on methods to harness the touch-shorthand machine as an effective computer input device; the problem lies in writing a programme which will translate the codes generated by these machines back into natural language with a sufficient degree of accuracy. One company, Stenocomp Inc., claims to have had an operational programme for two years, which has been used to provide 'service products such as Deposition, Conference, Board meeting and speech transcripts, plus computer photocomposed documents.' Although these claims are disputed by their competition, and although no direct evidence of their capabilities has yet been received, there can be no doubt that this technique will soon be viable. It will mean that the spoken word can be captured for the computer at speeds in excess of 200 words per minute, compared with a normal typing speed of perhaps 70 words per minute.

When such a terminal is available, one of two procedures may be used. If a truly verbatim transcript is required, a reporter may sit in the House and transmit what is said, through his touch-shorthand terminal, directly to the computer. At the same time, in another room and with a delay of only a few seconds, the translated text could be being typed out on, say, a typewriter terminal. Such a totally 'on-line' operation would be expensive; it would be more sensible to allow perhaps fifteen minutes of debate to accumulate before translating it in a batch. This does, however, suggest the prospect of 'instant transcripts'.

The other procedure, which might be used if a more polished Hansard is required (as described on Page 71), would be for the reporter to transmit the record to the computer after leaving the House, using either the tapes, his notes, or a combination of the two as his sources. In this way, and without the pressure of 'live action', his record would be clearer, and would need less subsequent editing and correction. His input speed would still be high, and it would require a rotating team of three, rather than six or seven, reporters to handle continuous proceedings.

Figure 4 indicates the cost savings the adoption of these techniques would effect, as well as some of the additional services they would facilitate. This, incidentally, means that, just at the time when Hansard reporters, many of whom are machine shorthand users, appear to be joining the list of vanishing species, a reprieve is in sight. The potential for the application of this technique is enormous, and the demand for touch shorthand operators can be expected to increase substantially. The Courts, board rooms, and convention halls are obvious places where they will be needed. However, any office could also benefit - there are already places where all correspondence is handled through a computer, and this approach has many advantages in report preparation. This points to the need for training for touch shorthand operators, and it is gratifying to note that the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology has been planning to introduce in the near future, a course for Court Reporters, of which touch shorthand training might well be an important part.

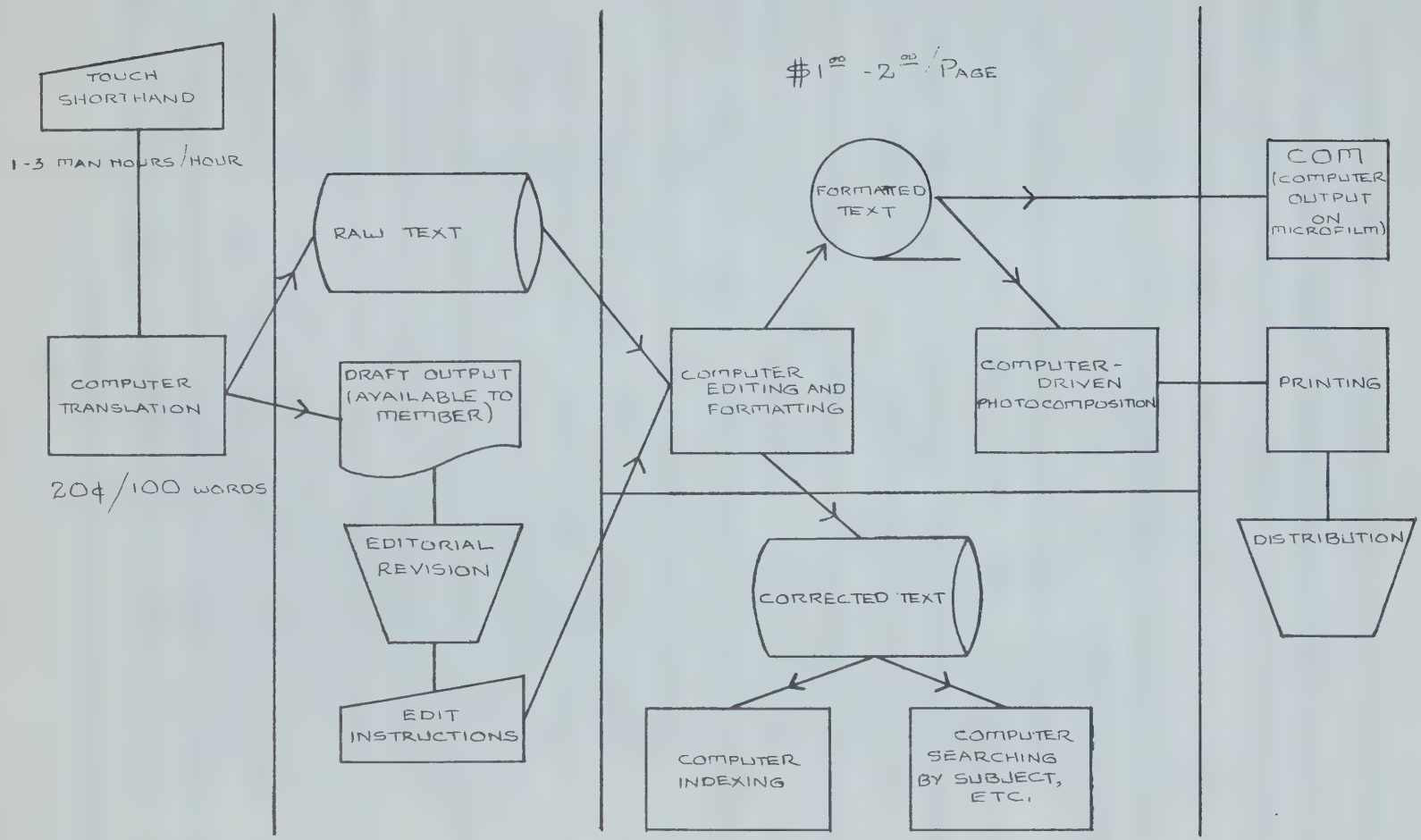
(3) Basic Considerations

However, before considering the procedures which might be used in Alberta, some thought must be given to other aspects of the situation. What should be included in the proceedings? What editorial policies should be followed? At what intervals should issues be published?

While most provinces include the proceedings of the committees involving the whole House, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan at present do not. Consideration is being given in Saskatchewan at least. to their inclusion, but their omission cuts the volume of work to be undertaken approximately

Figure 4

PROJECTED PROCESS FOR HANSARD PREPARATION AND ALLIED SERVICES USING COMPUTERIZED TECHNIQUES



in half. Cost is the restraining argument in this case, together with the belief vehemently expressed by a number of people that all the important debate takes place while the Mace is on the Table. Others are just as vehement that it is the debate on matters of detail, both in terms of the estimates and clause by clause examination of bills, which often is of greatest significance.

When the estimates are being examined item by item in the Committee of Supply, or when bills are being given clause by clause consideration in the Committee of the Whole, it is customary for the Chairman to read out each item or clause number. If there is no discussion or response he assumes that the item or clause is acceptable, and rules it 'passed'. On issues that are not contentious, this can mean that there are relatively long periods when the Chairman is doing nothing but reciting numbers; it is obvious that there is little value to anyone in a verbatim record of such monologues. On the other hand, when a contentious point is reached, the debate which ensues, directed to that particular point, may be of particular interest to those who will want to study the origins and development of the legislation or expenditures which finally result.

This would seem to call for editorial discretion, which brings up the whole question of editorial policy. There are provinces where the spoken word is considered sacred, and as it is uttered, so it goes down on paper. Others follow more closely the style of the federal Hansard, where the substance is captured with precision, but not necessarily the phrasing. This is perhaps the most important issue to be decided in the consideration of establishing a printed record of proceedings.

Wilding and Laundy describe the traditional Hansard editorial procedure as follows, and the Westminster editor confirms that these practices are still followed there, as they are also, by and large, in Ottawa, Toronto, and elsewhere: -

> "Revision is limited to the correction of grammar, spelling and punctuation, ensuring that the correct parliamentary forms are observed, and striking out superfluous repetition, and making any amendments necessary in the interests of clarity, common sense, and good English. No material alterations may be made, nor any amendments which would in any way tend to change the sense of what has been spoken. The transcript must remain an accurate, and as far as possible an exact, report of what has been said. A certain amount of revision is bound to be necessary, however. For instance, the tangled sentence and confusion of ideas which are such common features of extempore speaking, particularly when subject to interruption, must be sorted out if they are to make sense when committed to paper; the split infinitive and other solecisms which frequently occur in speech must be corrected; the mixed metaphor and other varieties of lapsus linguae, those dreaded pitfalls in public speaking, must not be perpetuated in print; and the Member who refers to 'the Honourable and gallant Member' when he should have said 'the Right Honourable and learned Member' must have his error corrected in the transcript. The speeches of the poor speaker must be made to read as intelligibly as those of the master orator. . . Sometimes, although not officially, the editors consult with Members themselves for the sake of ensuring accuracy. A Member has no right to alter his speech in any way, and it rests with the Editor as to whether or not a Member's correction shall be admitted. Unless he can prove he's been misreported, a Member may not change the sense of anything he has been recorded as saying; neither is he permitted to make any insertion as an afterthought, nor strike out a passage which he regrets having uttered. Hansard is an enduring historical record and nothing is allowed which would impair its accuracy. The record is not coloured in any way. Descriptive comments such as 'prolonged applause' or 'ironical cheers' (which frequently appear in press reports) are totally banned. A simple comment such as 'laughter' is admissible if referred to by a Member in the course of a speech. Hansard is a plain, ungarnished record. No pride of place is given to any speech, and the immortal perorations of Sir Winston Churchill appear upon equal terms with the less inspired utterances of the humblest of back-benchers."(10)

It is therefore obvious that Hansard is not a verbatim report, and it is perhaps unfortunate that it is considered to be one. Its purpose is not to record faithfully every word that is spoken in the House; rather, it is to produce a complete record, which adheres as closely as possible to the spoken word, but which is designed to meet the needs of its readers. Such readers will not have the benefits of voice cadence or intonation, of facial expression, or of histrionic gesticulation; they must rely solely on the printed words, which, if they are to be read with ease and understanding, must have a smooth flow and recognised order. It is the responsibility of the editor to supply these; the editor therefore carries considerable authority and responsibility.

The counter argument is that to edit the record is to tamper with history, and that what a Member says is what he should be on record as having said. Because of the well recognized differences between spoken and written language, such a faithful record tends to be difficult to read and to follow, but its authenticity cannot be debated. Two weeks after the Manitoba Debates and Proceedings began publication in 1958, this subject came up in the House. This debate is reproduced in Appendix G, not only because it covers a number of interesting points, but also because it provides a pertinent example of a verbatim ('un-Hansarded') record.

It is up to the Members of the Legislature to decide whether they want a faithful reproduction of their utterances on paper, or a record which will go furthest towards meeting the needs of those whose specific needs have been outlined above.

The record, of course, has little value to anyone if it is not made available to them. Again, there is little agreement as to the release of transcripts. Ottawa, Toronto, Quebec, and others make the first draft available to Members who spoke, the offices of the Leaders on both sides of the House, and the press gallery as soon as they are prepared. The 'daily' printed version is then published either overnight or up to 48 hours later, when it is distributed to government offices or mailed to subscribers. A complete, bound version is often made available at the end of each session. New Brunswick makes no effort to provide a daily edition, but keeps up as best it can with a limited staff. The proceedings for May 13th were being transcribed in November.

British Columbia does not authorize its Speaker to have any of the proceedings transcribed until after prorogation. Newfoundland considers its records to be purely internal documents, and never publishes them.

A decision on the desired policy in this area will depend on one's sympathies with the various classes of potential users. It should be remembered that it takes just as many man-hours to transcribe a record over a period of six months after the event than it does to do so within twenty-four hours. Prompt production does involve more people for a shorter period of time, more space, and more transcription machines; the question arises as to what is to be done with these for the rest of the year.

(4) Sessional Establishment or Year-round Service

With direction on the above questions, and a sufficient

allocation of funds, Mr. Speaker would be enabled to initiate the sort of record desired by the House. If the House opts for a verbatim record, he would probably delegate this responsibility to the Clerk of the House. If a style more consistent with the federal Hansard is chosen, he would seek to appoint an editor responsible directly to him. This poses some problems, since the only adequate training for Hansard editors is experience as a Hansard editor, and such people are hard to find. The short period of the year during which the Legislature sits complicates the situation further.

Saskatchewan hires a retired teacher to handle the job; Nova Scotia a retired newspaperman. British Columbia gives the job to a free-lance writer; before its sessions became as long as they are today, Ontario contracted the responsibility for producing its Hansard to a commercial enterprise, established to provide transcription and allied services. So satisfactory did they find this arrangement that eventually the owner of the business became the full-time editor of debates.

It has not proved difficult to find the transcribers and typists needed for this work. There are usually enough former secretaries, who have held senior government positions and are therefore familiar with governmental affairs, who are interested in working for three or four months of the year. Experience in many provinces has been that the same people are available year after year.

If, as appears obvious to the author, a technique based on the use of a computer can provide the most convenient and economical approach to the preparation of a Hansard, it will be necessary to have access to eight

computer terminals, at least until the touch shorthand technique is available. At $150 per month, one does not leave these sitting around idle for three-quarters of the year.

Two possibilities exist. The Government can establish a service, perhaps attached to the Queen's Printer, on which the Legislature has the prime call, but which is otherwise available to Royal Commissions, boards, committees, official enquiries, and intergovernmental meetings when held in Edmonton, and for the preparation of other printed reports not originating in meetings. Other provincial governments, who have turned to their legislative reporting services initially at a time of sudden need, have found the results very satisfactory, and New Brunswick, for instance, has a permanent staff which splits its time between its 'Synoptic Record' and other demands as they arise. The cost, of about $150,000 per year, would be charged out to departments making use of the service, and could well result in cost savings in the long run, when compared to the cost of temporary secretarial help on an ad hoc basis.

The alternative would be to hire a commercial service to bring in its terminals for the session, leaving the responsibility of finding additional work for the other nine months to it. No such service yet exists, although one is being established to handle the transcription of conventions. In any event, with the uncertainty of year round business, the cost could be expected to be substantial.

It should be noted that, apart from the terminals and possibly an interface unit in the Data Centre, the Government already has all the facilities needed to establish this service. Computer programmes designed

to edit and format Hansard are available to it at little, if any, cost, having been developed for the federal government.

Mr. Speaker may still find it necessary to appoint an editor for Hansard from outside any service the Government might set up, or a satisfactory individual might be found permanently attached to the service.

(5) Mechanics of the Hansard Operation

The mechanics of the operation should not concern Members to any great extent, except as an explanation for the costs involved. Subject to Mr. Speaker's authority, they should be left to the discretion of those responsible, so that they are free to improve their techniques as they go along.

A transcriber's job is much easier if she has heard the material before; she carries the meaning of what was said in her head, and takes less time to type it. The only province which at present permits its transcribers to listen to the debates they are to transcribe is Quebec, and they estimate that it takes five minutes to type each minute of speech; others estimate six. Ontario uses 'shorthand interjectionists', who sit in the House, and whose notes are used by the transcribers. While helpful, this does not seem to be as satisfactory an arrangement as that in Quebec. The period in the House, about once an hour if ten minute takes are used, also acts as a useful break from the monotony of typing.

This means that a team of seven transcribers is required. At the beginning of a sitting, which in Alberta usually lasts from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. or from 8 p.m. to 10:30 or 11 p.m., the period of the takes may

be only two or three minutes, so that all transcribers are working within half an hour of the start of the sitting. After listening for the designated amount of time, the transcriber would pick up the corresponding reel of tape, and return to her desk to transcribe it, her place in the gallery having been taken by the next in line. Her transcript would be double spaced, probably on 8 1/2 x 14 inch sheets. It would carry the date and the time period covered.

To quote from a description of the Ontario system,

> "With relatively inexperienced transcribers it is best to have them provide as verbatim a report of what is heard on tape as possible, leaving it to the editors to do any necessary grammatical editing, deletion of false starts, and so on. However, as the girls become experienced they will normally handle some of this while they are typing."

An editor will then read the transcript while listening to the tape, and will make any changes he deems necessary, before sending it for duplication and distribution to the Members who spoke, the Leaders of both sides of the House and the press gallery. Figure 5 shows a page from the Quebec House as it was distributed, with the editor's amendments in ink. (It has been reduced from a 14 inch length to fit the page size of this report.) It may be noted from this sheet that as few words are capitalized as possible. This is both to speed typing, and to prevent the final printed edition, which is frequently reduced photographically, to appear too crowded. Thus, 'ministre', 'honorable député', 'gouvernement', and so on are not capitalized.

If these sheets have not been returned within a given period of time, it is assumed that Members are satisfied with the transcription.

19-11-71 11 h 20 R/5920 - page 1

M. SAINT-PIERRE: ...du Haut-commissariat mais par le cas des zones spéciales avec l'OPDQ. Il y a une rencontre ce matin à Montréal, entre les représentants de la Corporation des jeux du Québec, des représentants, je crois, de la ville de Shawinigan et des représentants du Haut-commissariat et je tiens à dire que les règles du jeu étaient très claires lorsque nous avons établi la Corporation des jeux du Québec, la contribution financière du gouvernement s'élève à plus de $660,000 pour l'organisation des jeux d'été et d'hiver. Il n'est nullement question que le gouvernement s'engage à chaque fois à réaliser des programmes importants d'immobilisation pour les villes.

Nous sommes prêts, dans le cadre de nos programmes habituels, à tenter de faire l'impossible pour accélérer l'échéancier dans le cas des investissements scolaires et municipaux mais il n'y a pas de subvention particulière surtout lorsque la demande nous provient trois mois avant le début des jeux pour des programmes d'immobilisation.

M. DEMERS: Quelle est la réponse du ministre somme toute?

UNE VOIX: C'est clair.

M. DEMERS: Pourrais-je avoir une réponse?

M. LE PRESIDENT: L'honorable député de Mégantic.

M. DUMONT: Merci, M. le Président. Ma question s'adresse au ministre des Finances et concernant une déclaration qu'il a faite hier au sujet des programmes d'initiative locale. D'après les épreuves du journal des Débats, il a mentionné 30 jours-hommes au lieu de 30 mois-hommes.

Alors, comme cela fait une différence de $6,000 à $25,000 dans le projet, pourrait-il d'abord rectifier sa déclaration et deuxièmement, est-il dans l'intention du ministre de négocier avec Ottawa pour que cet article 30 mois-hommes soit changé afin d'aider les petites municipalités pour les programmes de $25,000 et moins?

M. GARNEAU: M. le Président, je ne veux pas faire erreur, n'ayant malheureusement pas le document devant moi, concernant cette référence; si le député de Mégantic le permet, je lui répondrai mardi prochain.

M. LE PRESIDENT: Dernière question, le député de Maskinongé.

M. PAUL: M. le Président, je voudrais poser une question au ministre de la propagande et des Communications, l'honorable député de Deux-Montagnes. Le ministre peut-il informer la Chambre quant à la conduite que le gouvernement entend tenir au sujet de la demande d'augmentation de tarif présentée à la Commission canadienne des transports par Bell Canada? Et comme question subsidiaire, le ministre peut-il confirmer ou nier la nouvelle de la publication, cet après midi, d'un communiqué de presse aux fins de prévenir tous

Figure 5

Having considered any suggested changes, referring back to the tapes or even waiting for Mr. Speaker to resolve a point of particularly bitter contention, and having transferred any further amendments onto the master copy of the draft, the editor then authorizes the preparation of the final copy. This may involve sending the corrected draft to the printer, who takes it from there. If the draft was prepared using a 'Magnetic Tape Selectric Typewriter' (MT/ST), which stores the text on magnetic tape, he will refer it back to an operator who will prepare a second tape incorporating the corrections. Both tapes may then be passed to an MT/Composer operator, who will produce a neatly justified final copy; alternatively, they may be run off on the MT/ST itself, to produce a less fancy product at a lower cost. This technique is being used by several provinces. If the text was stored in machine readable form via a computer terminal, editing instructions can be fed in likewise, and whatever sort of output is required can be generated.

The printing itself may be undertaken in one of three ways. The Queen's Printer is by statute responsible for the printing requirements of the Legislature, and he has indicated his ability to handle the printing of an Alberta Hansard on an overnight basis, if requested to do so. Secondly, he could farm the job out to a commercial printer, if benefits are to be derived from such a move. Thirdly, he could supply a small printing unit to the Legislative Buildings well suited to this purpose; this would avoid the need for transporting copy half way across the city, and the splitting of an integrated operation into two parts.

If microfilm output is required, this can be obtained by photography of the printed edition, or, if the computer is used, by a technique known as COM - Computer Output on Microfilm. This can be made up into microfiche and duplicated by a commercial service agency, unless other Government applications warrant the acquisition of the necessary equipment.

As an interesting sidelight, it might be mentioned that another advantage of a microfiche edition is that it could, after prorogation, be rearranged to collect together all transcripts, sessional papers, and any other documentation dealing with specific subjects. These would, in many cases, be of considerably greater value than the Hansard record by itself.

(6) Initiation of Service

It is obvious that a Hansard team could not be assembled and expected to operate smoothly overnight. If the decision is to be made to initiate the publication of an Alberta Hansard, it should be made by the Legislature. Ideally, this should be done during one session to take effect at the beginning of the next. If, however, informal agreement could be obtained from all concerned that such a move would not be opposed, wheels could be set in motion in advance of a session, with a formal Resolution being introduced as one of the first items of business of the new session. It is for the Government to decide whether such a move would be to presume excessively upon the privileges of the Legislature, but it may be noted that the precedent has been set. Recording equipment was installed in the B. C. House before the beginning of the 1970 session, and that entire session was recorded. The Resolution authorizing this

procedure was not brought forward for debate until the very end of the session.

Another problem affecting the introduction of this service is the availability of equipment. Both MT/ST's and computer terminals take up to three months to deliver. It would of course be possible to perform the entire operation manually, but with more typists and at greater cost.

(7) Cost Considerations

The cost of the operation is dependent, as previously mentioned, on the length of the session, whether or not committee meetings are included, and on the editorial approach. Committee coverage appears to double the cost; Hansard type editing adds about twenty-five percent.

Pay scales are relatively high; a transcriber in Ottawa is paid between $7250 and $8073 a year, in Toronto $5714 to $6705 a year, and in Manitoba $18.63 for a six hour day. Final typists in Manitoba get $21.16 for a six hour day. The Editor-in-Chief of Hansard in Ottawa is paid between $18,607 and $21,368, and in Toronto $16,462 to $18,497. British Columbia pays $6,000 per session to its editor.

Printing costs average about a third of the manpower and transcription costs, with most provinces printing between 300 and 500 copies. This indicates that the average cost of a manually produced, edited Hansard for a three hour sitting should not exceed $575.00. For a twelve week session with a full slate of night sittings (three nights a week), this amounts to $55,000. The use of computing facilities, and the use of microfilm for distribution to libraries, etc., will reduce this cost substantially.

In comparison to the $40,000 to $50,000 Alberta may have to spend to publish these records, it may be comforting to note that Ontario spends $500,000, Quebec (including a duplicate transcription staff for committee work) $900,000, the British House of Commons $383,000, not including printing and distribution, and the U. S. Congress $7 million. It should be noted that, this last figure covers both Houses and includes all the Congressional Papers which are printed with the proceedings. It is however interesting to note that, on a per capita basis, this is very close to the estimate for Alberta.

(8) Subscription Rates

Subscriptions to Hansards are almost universally subsidized very heavily. Ottawa's charge of $3.00 per session just covers the printing costs of four daily editions. No province asks more than $10.00 per session.

However, based on random copies of reports produced in various provinces, it will cost at least $5.40 by third class mail to send daily editions of a twelve week session to a subscriber, or $12.00 by first class mail. This cost could be reduced by about forty percent if mailings were weekly instead of daily. Weekly mailings of microfilm by first class mail, would cost 96 cents.

The additional cost of producing and printing these editions would be $60.00, based on a total print run of 500. Thus with a subscription rate of $20.00, the Government would still be bearing over two-thirds of the cost.

Perhaps it is unreasonable to take the total cost into such a consideration, since the production operation will constitute a fixed cost which can perhaps be justified in other ways. The printing costs will amount to about $1.60 per week per issue, or $19.20 for a twelve week session. On this basis, a subscription fee of $20.00 would still fall short of meeting printing costs and postage.

If a selective distribution service can be established, subscription rates should be established on the basis of the frequency of occurence of the index terms chosen. However, to encourage its use, and until such frequency distributions can be established, a fee of $5 for the first term, and $1 for each additional term up to a maximum of $20 could be implemented.

It will be appreciated that these suggested rates are not intended to make money, and based on experience elsewhere, no great amount of revenue from subscriptions should be anticipated. Some considerable effort should be made, however, to make the citizens of Alberta aware of the availability of such reports, if they are to be published.

V

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of this study, I hereby recommend:

(1) That each Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta should, in the light of his own concept of the Legislative Assembly, decide how he believes its activities and deliberations should be reported for the benefit of the Province as a whole, both now and in the future;

(2) That, if all Members are agreed that the publication of an official record of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly should be initiated without delay, the Government should immediately seek a consensus among Members

(a) as to whether such a record should consist of a verbatim transcript or a 'Hansard', edited in the fashion described in this report, and if each day's proceedings should be made available within 24 hours or in due course as other demands on the transcription staff permit; if a Hansard is required, immediate steps should be taken to locate an editor, who should commence at once to make the necessary arrangements for the impending session; if a verbatim record is desired the Clerk of the House should be so advised, so that he may make the necessary arrangements;

(b) as to whether such a record should include the proceedings of the Committee of Whole and the Committee of Supply; if it should, the necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the necessary personnel are available to handle the additional volume of work.

(3) That the transcription staff should be stenographers of high calibre, preferably with considerable experience in Government work; they should be engaged at least two weeks prior to the session so that they may be given the opportunity to gain experience using tapes from previous years, and to become familiar with the style, format, and word usage to be adopted for the report as a whole;

(4) That, if there is not a unanimous expression of opinion volunteered by all Members at this stage, the Government should consider what steps it can take in the immediate future along the lines outlined above without presuming unduly upon the will of the House;

(5) That the Government should prepare a Resolution for introduction at an early stage of the next session of the Legislature setting out its proposals for the publication of an official record of its proceedings;

(6) That the Government should prepare a Resolution for introduction at an early stage of the next session of the Legislature which will give official recognition to the Press, and which will set out such restrictions on their activities as it deems necessary;

(7) That the Government should prepare a Resolution for introduction at an early stage of the next session of the Legislature which will establish the right for any person in the galleries of the House to take notes.

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(8) As (5) above.

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APPENDICES

A. "Time for TV in Legislature", Editorial, Western Catholic Reporter, January 5th, 1969.

B. Tabulation of recording procedures used by Canadian provinces.

C. O. C. 265/65 and attached Schedule

D. Correspondence concerning the Historical Value of Legislative Records.

E. Correspondence from Prof. L. H. Thomas

F. Pages from a Manitoba Statute 'Typeset' by Computer

G. Debate on 'Hansard' Expenditures, Manitoba, 1958.

H. Sample pages from current Ontario "Hansard"

I. Sample pages from current New Brunswick "Synoptic Record"

J. Sample pages from current Quebec "Journal des Debats"

K. Sample pages from current Manitoba "Debates and Proceedings"

L. Sample pages from current Saskatchewan "Debates and Proceedings"

WESTERN CATHOLIC
reporter
Vol. 4 No. 17 January 5, 1969 15¢

Time For TV In Legislature

Television has arrived at the front door of the House of Commons and legislatures across Canada, making brief entrances only on ceremonial occasions.

The time has come for legislators to face up to life in the 60's and permit the final step, live coverage of the events or rebroadcast of highlights at a more convenient viewing time.

The time seems doubly opportune in Alberta with a new premier and the promise of future change to show the country that this province leads the way in the communications era.

Opposition leader Peter Lougheed, for one, highly favors bringing in the cameras. In his view, "There is no valid reason why there should not be live coverage of the debates and proceedings in the Alberta Legislature."

* * *

THE MAIN objection voiced by Speaker Arthur Dixon and others, including former Premier Ernest Manning, is what they call "the editing problem."

Who would decide what the viewers are to see?

Well, it's the same journalistic decision faced by the editor of every newspaper and radio station. And we might add, television news editors, who choose from the day's happenings to present what they believe are most significant.

Edmonton TV stations have been filming highlights of the Edmonton city council meetings for the past two years and apparently to everyone's satisfaction. Editing has not been a complaint.

* * *

BECAUSE OF THE immediacy and impact of television, there is the lingering fear, especially among government members, that the Opposition might use the medium more effectively, that individuals may "play to the cameras."

There may be some truth to this. But members are already playing to the press gallery, hoping to get the best possible exposure to present their case in the most favorable light.

Anything that would prompt the MLAs to better prepare and cut marathon speeches for fear of losing the audience is all to the good. As far as any budding Bob Hopes or Quentin Durgens, they have still to emerge.

TABULATION OF RECORDING PROCEDURES USED BY CANADIAN PROVINCES

	Tape for Archival Purposes	How Long Kept	Tape for Transcription	Cassette or Reel	No. of Tracks Used	Normal Length of Tapes (Minutes)	Recording System Installed	
Alberta	Yes	Indef.			2	30	1965	
British Columbia	Yes	Indef.	Yes	C		20	1970	
Manitoba	No		Yes	C	1	20	1958	
New Brunswick	No		Yes	R	4	60		
Newfoundland			Yes				1970	
Nova Scotia	Yes	Indef.	Yes	R	2			
Ontario	Yes		Yes	R	2	10	1957	
P. E. I.	Yes							
Quebec	No		Yes Kept 1 Mo.	C	4	5		
Saskatchewan	Yes	2 Years	Yes	C	2	20	1957	

	What Is Transcribed	Do Transcribers Sit in the House	Does Anyone Take Notes to Assist the Transcribers	Do Transcribers Edit	Equipment Used By Transcriber			
Alberta	Part	No	Yes		Type-writer			
British Columbia		No			Type-writer			
Manitoba	House & Comms.	No	No	No	Type-writer			
New Brunswick	House & Comms.	No	No	No	Type-writer			
Newfoundland								
Nova Scotia	House	No	Yes	Yes	IMT/ST			
Ontario	House & Comms.	No	Yes	Yes, if experienced	Type-writer			
P. E. I.	Part	No						
Quebec	House & Comms.	Yes		Yes, if experienced	Type-writer			
Saskatchewan	House	No	Yes	Yes, if experienced	Type-writer			

	Draft Given Limited Distribution	Daily Edition	Time in Hours to Publication	Editorial Style	Preparation of Published Edition	Size of Staff	Total Cost		
Alberta		No		Verbatim		4			
British Columbia		No	8 months after end of Session	Hansard	mt/ (?) composer	5			
Manitoba	No	Yes	24	Verbatim	Executive type-writer	16	$2,500 per week		
New Brunswick	No	No		Hansard	mt/st + mt/Composer	6	$56,000		
Newfoundland		Yes	Not published						
Nova Scotia	No	Yes	36-48	Hansard	mt/st	5 Perm. 3 Temp.	$50,000		
Ontario	Yes	Yes	48+	Hansard	"cold type"	24+	$500,000		
P. E. I.		No							
Quebec	Yes	Yes	36-48	Hansard	mt/ composer	97*	$900,000*		
Saskatchewan	Yes	No		Hansard	mt/st	6	$20,000		

*Includes Duplicate Transcription Staff for Committee Work

O. C. 265/65

and attached Schedule

O.C. 265/65

Approved and Ordered,

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Edmonton, Tuesday, February 16th, 1965.

The Executive Council has had under consideration the report of the Honourable the President of the Council, dated February 3rd, 1965, stating that:

WHEREAS the Fifteenth Legislative Assembly at its First Session thereof passed the following Resolution:

> "Whereas, the installation of a sound reinforcement system in this Legislative Assembly provides a convenient means of obtaining a tape record of proceedings of the House at minimum expense.
>
> Therefore, be it resolved that this Legislative Assembly request the Government to give favourable consideration to the installation of sound recording equipment in order that a record of proceedings be obtained on tape at all future Session of the Legislature.
>
> Be it also resolved that such tape recordings be kept in the care of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly from which he shall produce a verbatim report of the speeches made by each Member of the House during the Throne Speech and Budget Debates and on such other occasions as the House may direct; and on request of a member, the speeches or statements made at other times during the proceedings.
>
> Be it still further resolved that a scale of fees for transcribing be drawn up to determine the charges for all copies over and above the first copy supplied free of charge to Members of the House.

THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council, the Executive Council advises that a scale of fees in accordance with the schedule attached hereto be and is hereby authorized to cover charges for all copies over and above the first copy supplied free of charge to Members of the House.

CHAIRMAN

SCHEDULE OF FEES

For transcript of speeches made by each Member of the Legislative Assembly during the Throne Speech and Budget Debates and on such other occasions as the House may direct, and on request of a Member, the speeches and statements made at other times during the proceedings:

(1) For first copy

(a) to each Member of Legislative Assembly ...	Free
(b) to each Member of Press Gallery	Free

(2) For each additional copy, per page or portion thereof ..... 5 cents

CORRESPONDENCE

CONCERNING THE HISTORICAL VALUE

OF LEGISLATIVE RECORDS

1. Historical Society of Alberta

2. Prof. J. A. Granatstein, Editor,
   Issues in Canadian History

University Archives
Rutherford Library

Historical Society of Alberta

December 15, 1971

Mr. J. Peter Swann
13904 - 78th Avenue
Edmonton 51, Alberta

Dear Mr. Swann:

Re: Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly

The Society is very pleased to learn that the Government is considering ways and means of improving publications of these proceedings. On November 20, the Society executive discussed the matter of recording these proceedings. It was agreed that:

1. the proceedings should be recognized as an indispensable source of Alberta's history.
2. the proceedings should be recorded on a form of document which can be preserved indefinitely.
3. information from these form of document should be readily retrievable.
4. although there are sound economic reasons for not producing a type of Hansard document, any or all of the records should be available upon request.

The Society executive discussed the relative merits of various forms of documents (paper, film, tape) but the general feeling was that this was a technical matter with should be resolved by the Provincial Archivist.

I hope the above comments will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Parker

James M. Parker
President

JMP/ca

Department of History

YORK UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS

4700 KEELE STREET, DOWNSVIEW 463, ONTARIO

November 17, 1971

Mr. J. Peter Swann,
13904 78th Ave.,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Swann:

Thank you for your letter of 8 November asking for my comments on the historical value of Hansard-type publications. All I can say really is that the Copp Clark Issues in Canadian History series which I edit makes extensive use of such materials. So too does virtually every historian of Canada. Without a Hansard our political process would be even more incomprehensible than it is.

Yours sincerely,

J.L. Granatstein,
Associate Professor of History.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON 7, CANADA
TEL. 432-3270 AREA CODE 403

November 4, 1971.

Mr. J. Peter Swann,
13904 - 78th Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Swann:

In looking over my letter to you of November 3rd, I think that I should have also stressed the following points:

1) It is very important to have a full report of the debate on a bill in order to understand the objectives which were sought by the legislators. This is not always apparent from a reading of the clauses.

2) Similarly, a full report of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, and the budget debate, is important for an understanding of general government policies and the priorities assigned to various policies.

3) Study of the political history of Alberta and of the development of administrative activity is badly handicapped by the absence of a Hansard-type record prior to the inauguration of the taped recordings of Assembly debates in the late 1960's.

4) The record of debates would be used by graduate students in history and political science at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels, in preparing theses dealing with a political leader, an administrative program, a political process, and a period of political history. It might also be used by senior undergraduate students for term papers on more limited topics.

Yours sincerely,

Lewis H. Thomas

Lewis H. Thomas,
Professor of History.

LHT:vrg

PAGES FROM A

MANITOBA STATUTE

'TYPESET' BY COMPUTER

BILL 19

THE TRANSIT GRANTS ACT

(Assented to 1969)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, enacts as follows:

Definitions.

1 In this Act

(a) "gross operating revenue" means the revenue received from the operation of vehicles used in a public transit system including fares and rentals of chartered buses, but not including any revenue received from the sale of advertising space on or in the vehicles, or rental of garage or parking space, or from other activities not related to the carriage of passengers on the vehicles, or interest on investments or reserves;

(b) "metropolitan area" means the metropolitan area as defined in The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act;

(c) "minister" means the member of the Executive Council charged by the Lieutenant Governor in Council with the administration of this Act;

(d) "municipality" includes The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg;

(e) "privately owned public transit system" means a public transit system which is owned and operated by a person other than a municipality and which is designated in the regulations as a privately owned public transit system for the purposes of this Act;

(f) "public transit system" means a system of providing passenger transportation wholly within the metropolitan area, a city, town, or village, or wholly within the metropolitan area, a city, town, or village, and a residential area adjacent or in close proximity thereto, that is available to the public and, with the exception of providing chartered buses, operates in accordance with schedules and on specific routes.

Grants to public transit systems.

2(1) Subject to subsection (3), to each municipality that owns and operates a public transit system there shall be paid in each year on the requisition of the minister a grant equal to the lesser of

(a) five per cent of the gross operating revenue of the public transit system in the next previous year; or

(b) the amount of the deficit incurred in the next previous year from the operation of the public transit system.

Grants to municipalities subsidizing private transit systems.

2(2) Subject to subsection (4), to each municipality that, for the purpose of maintaining the privately owned public transit system in the municipality, pay a cash subsidy to a person who owns and operates a privately owned public transit system operated wholly within the municipality, or wholly within that municipality and other municipalities each of which also pays a cash subsidy to that person for that purpose, there shall be paid in each year on the requisition of the minister a grant equal to the lesser of

(a) five per cent of the gross operating revenue of the privately owned public transit system for the previous year; or

(b) the amount of the subsidy in the next previous year.

Jointly owned systems.

2(3) Where a public transit system is owned and operated by two or more municipalities jointly, only one grant is payable under subsection (1) in respect of the public transit system and it shall be paid to those municipalities which made a payment to the public transit system to extinguish in whole or in part any deficit incurred from the operation of the public transit system in the year in respect of which the grant is paid and shall be distributed among those municipalities in the same proportion which they have contributed to the extinguishment of the deficit.

Municipalities jointly subsidizing private system.

2(4) Where a privately owned public transit system is subsidized by two or more municipalities, only one grant is payable under subsection (2) in respect thereof and it shall be paid to those municipalities and shall be distributed among those municipalities in the same proportion which the subsidy paid by each of them in respect of the public transit system bears to the total of such subsidies.

Financial statements, etc.

3 No grant shall be paid under this Act in respect of a public transit system unless the minister has received an audited financial statement in respect of the operations thereof during the year in respect of which the grant is made and an audited balance sheet in respect thereof as of the last day of the year in respect of which the grant is made.

DEBATE ON 'HANSARD' EXPENDITURES

MANITOBA, 1958

(TWO WEEKS AFTER COMMENCING PUBLICATION)

MR. CAMPBELL (Continued)
to at that time, perhaps it's as well. My only thought was that inasmuch as the circumstances are a bit unusual on this occasion, that perhaps the First Minister would avail himself of the opportunity of making the statement first which might obviate some of the questions that would come up in the committee stage, but I have no point to make on that particularly.

MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of the House, an inequity in the matter of premiums in the Manitoba Hospital Services Plan. This is a problem that one of my constituents has at the present time. This involves a widowed mother, with four unmarried daughters, and one son age 17, now at school. One of the daughters is receiving the disability pension, and because of her condition, this makes it impossible for the mother to go to work. The three working daughters each contribute $2.05 per month, and the mother has been denied the right--at least one of the daughters has been denied the right to claim the mother as a dependent. I might say Mr. Speaker, that under the Federal Income Tax regulations, the daughter is able to do that. This makes a total annual premium for this family unit of $123.00. It is felt that one of the daughters should be allowed to claim the mother as a dependent under the Act, and I would ask that serious consideration be given to cases similar to this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member for St. Matthews take the chair?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 1, Appropriation 6, first session of the twenty-fifth legislature. (a) (1) Members' indemnities - $56,000.00; Expense Allowances - $28,000.00; Travelling Expenses - $1,200.00; Opposition Leader - $1,250.00; - Total - $86,450.00. (a) Passed.

(b) (1) Speaker's Indemnity - $2,000.00; Speaker's Expense Allowance - $1,000.00 - Total - $3,000.00.

(c) Salaries - Deputy Speaker or Chairman to the Committee as a Whole - $375.00; Sargeant-at-Arms - $300.00; Sessional Assistants, Messengers and Pages - $4,200.00 - Total - $4,875.00.

(d) Supplies, Expenses, Equipment and Renewals - $2,400.00.

(e) Legislative Printing and Binding - $8,000.00.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, on this item, I would like to direct a question or two to the Minister in charge of this section of the supplemental estimate. I think the members would be interested to know, in view of past arguments and past legislature, as to the cost of printing the Hansard, or the Debates and Proceedings in this House. I would also like to make a comment on the documents that we receive daily, as to the debates that are happening in the House. Now, I would suggest that--and while I appreciate that this is a new venture insofar as this legislature is concerned, I would suggest that serious consideration be given

MR. PAULLEY (Continued)
to - in the future - to a proper editing of the debates which takes place.

I'm sure that all honourable members will agree with me that it is rather difficult to find, without perusing each of the editions, what has taken place in any particular debate. We are all interested in what each and every member says, and of course, being educated by the fine system of Hansard that prevails at the present time on the federal basis, we are used to that, and I suggest that serious consideration should be given to that.

And also, Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate full well the difficulties in the original start of a thing like this, on the part of the staff, I think that the consideration should be given, again giving due credit to those that are responsible at the present time. But I think that due consideration should be given to the--an attempt to speed up the area of time from which the debates are made until the edition comes before us in this legislature. I understand that in Ottawa, the preliminary copies of the debates are in the hands of the members the day following. As it is now, we are now today, receiving copies of the 8:00 o'clock session of last Friday night. Developments have happened rather rapidly in the last two or three days, particularly in regard to the Speech and the Address to the Throne, and lacking the Hansard, some of us may have wanted to have made comments on some of the debates and contributions to the debates that other honourable members in the House had made.

We have grown particularly in this session, to come to a firm belief, that we can not rely on the recordings as published in our local papers. They have been so erroneous from time to time, that we cannot any longer, I feel, rely on them. And now that we have a system of Hansard, or the recording of the debates and proceedings, I think that it would be in the interest of all concerned, if efforts could be made to speed up, or eliminate the time lapse which we have at the present time, between the debates, and the time that we, as members, receive the debates. As far as editing is concerned, a number of incidents have been drawn to the attention of the House, that members words have been slightly other than those that they thought they--or did issue, utter from their mouths. I don't think that--thus far, Mr. Chairman, that any great injustice has been done as a result of not being edited. But, I would seriously suggest more speed in order to get the issues to us, and that consideration be given to indexing the copies of Hansard, for, not only the benefit of the members in the Legislature, but those outside, who are following it. A further point to that Mr. Chairman, I have found on going down to the Queen's Printer, that there only seems to be a limited number of the copies printed, and, on a couple of occasions, have been unable to obtain, due to tardiness possibly on my part--maybe some of the other members have also found it so, due to tardiness, that the issue--that the number that have been mimeographed or printed have been exhausted. I just make those comments, Mr. Chairman, in the interests of further developing this idea. I think it's an admirable idea, something which we have fought for, over the years.

I think in closing, Mr. Chairman, it would be interesting to

MR. PAULLEY (Continued)
know, in view of the past debates on this, what is the anticipated cost, and I do earnestly suggest to the members opposite that they take note of the points that I have raised, in order to make this even more acceptable than it is at the present time.

MR. E. PREFONTAINE (Carillon): I would like to say a few words with respect to Hansard. I'm one of those who has raised a few matters with respect to Hansard, but I would like to state that I do not agree with the honourable member who has just spoken, when he says that we cannot believe what is reported in the press. I believe that the reports in the press have been much more accurate than the reports that have appeared in Hansard. In most instances--I just point out too, another mistake of Hansard, which has just been placed on our tables, the debates on October 31st, 1958 - that's last Friday, and it's quite a few days. At that time, I spoke and I had some comments with respect to the Leader of our Group, and I said this, which is partly well reported, "Mr. Speaker, I for one am sure that Premier Campbell is a man of whom it will be said that he was not a politician, but a statesman, and, do you know the difference between a statesman and a politician? It is this," and I stated, and I would like every.....to ask every member of the House to try and recall what I stated, and it was this, "the difference between a statesman and a politician is this, the statesman is one who believes that he belongs to the nation, and the politician is one who believes that the nation belongs to him."

Now, according to Hansard, I said this, "Do you know the difference between a statesman and a politician? It is this, the statesman is one who believes that the nation belongs to him," and that's all. It doesn't report my speech, I'm sure that I made it, I'm ready to go and check with the Honourable the Provincial Secretary at any time. I'm sure that I made a distinction between the statesman and the politician. And, this doesn't make it - it doesn't make much sense. "A statesman is one who believes the nation belongs to him." That Hansard--it is quite an error. When I called the attention to the House the other day to a mistake, a mistake which happened on the first day, I was reported at that time of having stated that I had been chosen as Speaker of the House. The mistake happened this way, and when I went with the Provincial Secretary, we found out the machine was not synchronized to my desk at the time - if that is the proper word? And, the machine did not catch the first sentence. I stated that at times my age was against my being chosen, and the typist said "I have been chosen."

So, I say that it is about time that there should be some editing done because mistakes will carry on. I believe there is an improvement, quite an improvement in this report of my last speech, and of course it might be my own fault. I'm trying to speak as clearly as possible, but apparently I can't. But, there are mistakes that have been pointed out by quite a few members of this House. So, I think that in order to have something that will be quoted for a long time for the records, that it should be more accurate, there should be at least some chance

MR. PREFONTAINE (Continued)
of correcting it rather than -- a better way than correcting it the way I'm doing now.

HON. MARCEL BOULIC (Provincial Secretary): Mr. Chairman, in answer to the question of the honourable member for Radisson, we anticipate an expense of $150.00 per afternoon session, and $175.00 per evening session. As for Mr. Prefontaine's comments about the few mistakes that might have come in, I understand that he will have corrected himself in just saying what he said now.

MR. B. CORBETT (Swan River): Mr. Chairman in the reports of Hansard, I made use of the words dammed the river, in which it is spelled "damned". In my statements here I've "damned" the Dauphin River and I've "damned" the Fairford River - "damned" - which makes quite a difference in the meaning.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, the remarks of the last speaker point out how difficult this whole question of reporting is, and, I recall the fact that some people in this House, and another House, were very anxious to take me to task one time, because I mentioned about the Ottawa Hansard being doctored. I admit that the phrase was not a particularly expressive one--it certainly wasn't "Churchillian" English at all, but I hadn't been writing the speech out, and I just used the expression that came to my mind, and it still is a fact as honourable members who know the procedure at Ottawa are aware, that it is doctored. The Ottawa Hansard is doctored. And, that's what makes the federal members speeches look better than when you hear the federal members. And, I'm sure that most of the people would not object if our speeches in here could be made to, both sound better and more entertaining, and look better in print as well, but, this question of revisions is difficult. The honourable member for Swan River mentioned that you can get the spelling mixed up a bit, and I think of the politician who was being reported by the local paper, and he was a veteran, and liked that fact to be mentioned, and he had handed out in his press release that he was a battle-scarred veteran, but the press report left out one of the "R's" in scarred, and he, of course was desperately displeased with that, and urged that they must make a correction. And, in the next issue they managed to correct that one alright and got that word right, but they got an "o" instead of the "a" in the first word. So, this question of making corrections presents its difficulties too. And, I'm not complaining, and I know I'm one of the worst offenders. I'm not complaining, though, that Hansard goes down as we speak our words in here. I'm not urging, and I don't urge a system where we are given the opportunity of doctoring as they do in Ottawa, because it was admitted in the debate down there, when the debate took place a couple of years ago - it was admitted that fairly extensive corrections were made, and, we folks who have watched them know that fairly extensive corrections are made in the Ottawa system. I do not advocate that. But still, the-- this system leaves something to be desired too. And, I think it's rather difficult that some of us would have to read over our own contributions to Hansard in order to be sure. I'm glad to see

MR. CAMPBELL (Continued)
that my honourable friend and colleague, the member for Carillon, is so fond of his own speeches that he assiduously reads them over again. I - if I were going to read the speeches over again of anybody in the House, I think I would choose those of my honourable friend, but, certainly I don't want to read my own over again. And, I don't think anybody else does, or not very many, perhaps they'll want to see what stand I took on some particular thing. I have always been prepared to leave it to the daily press to report it, and I think you'll always find that no matter how we try to improve this system, that we'll find that we press it in in this place, it'll bulge out in another. We'll continue to have difficulties with it. And, I still wonder if it's worth the expenditure. Perhaps some honourable members could say what's $100.00 per sitting, but that's just in my mind, symptomatic of the times. And then, I come to my famous complaint, the very fact that it is difficult to get an accurate reporting, and I'm not blaming the staff, I'm not blaming the staff, because I'm sure it's difficult for them too. Some of us do not enunciate as clearly as others. It's difficult to catch the interruptions, if you don't catch the interruptions, then the reply that is made to the interruption appears in the body of the remarks of the one speaking, and throws it entirely out of context. It makes us look a little more illogical even than we are when that kind of thing happens.

And, there's so many difficulties, but the other--in order to guard against that, the practice has been growing in this House of reading speeches. And, that's the thing that I object to. I don't object to the reading of answers by Ministers, because they must be completely accurate in those. And they frequently can't trust their memory, because often they're on technical matters and deal with facts and figures and things that must be put on--I don't object to the reading of the Ministerial statements and things of that kind. I don't even object to the reading of speeches, where necessary by new members, but I do object to the practice that has grown up, of people in order--ever since this recording system has been here, and I mention my Honourable Friend, the First Minister, if there's anybody in this House who doesn't need to read his speech, in addition to my Honourable Friend for Carillon, it's the Honourable the First Minister, because whatever.....

MR. ROBLIN: He doesn't.

MR. CAMPBELL: Oh yes, he does.

MR. ROBLIN: No, I don't. You're quite wrong.

MR. CAMPBELL: ...but whatever else he does I give him.... ...he has notes that are word for word, every word of them printed out. I've watched him on many.....oh not in all cases, I'm not meaning in all cases, but I watched my Honourable Friend the other day....

MR. ROBLIN: I think Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend will

MR. ROBLIN (Continued)
just have to take my statement that I do not read speeches, that I think he is well aware of the fact.

MR. CAMPBELL: I have to take my honourable friend's statement for things that I'm not in a position to watch myself, and when I watched my honourable friend the other day, it was his Bourinot or Beauchesne or some other one of those large books up here, with the, with the....evidently, the speech all written out on it. And I asked my honourable friend if that isn't the case.

MR. ROBLIN: I already said, that's not the case, my honourable friend will just have to accept that as a fact.

MR. CAMPBELL: Well, if my honourable friend says that's not the case, I admit that I'm not in a position to see it as well from over here, as he is from that side, but, the point that I'm making is that if there's anybody in the House that doesn't need to stick that closely to his notes, my honourable friend is one of those people. And, I think it's a very great mistake that we should allow a system here to corrupt our good practices, which are according to the rules, that speeches should not be read. I quoted from the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen the other day and I remember hearing the Right Honourable gentleman give the judge's decision in connection with a debate, which was national in character, and he certainly gave an exemplification to my mind of how public speaking should be done. This is some years back. One of the things that he deprecated then, in the strongest terms, was the tendency toward--of reading speeches. And, I noted, although I didn't hear this one, that a short time later, in speaking to - I think it was the Canadian Club in Vancouver, that again he had spoken on that same point. And, I'm concerned about the fact, not just because we're breaking the rules, because perhaps we break them in other regards as well. But, if I might make an appeal to the House, would be to try and get away from this practice of reading speeches. There's a good reason for that rule being in the House, because the background of it is that if it's allowed for speeches to be read, then opinions might be expressed in here that don't originate with the speaker at all, but with someone from outside the House, who is--the old texts say, whose are not properly to be put before the House in that way. Well, I don't know what the answer is to all of this, but I certainly do think that we must get a better method of allowing minor and obvious corrections to be made, not by the Speaker himself, except by the method that we do it now, but by the staff, who I'm sure are competent enough that they can change some of these mistakes that we see in the report as we get it now. I'm not critical of my honourable friend the Minister, because this is a new departure and it'll take a little time to get it working properly; but I do commend to him some attention toward keeping very, very high quality of people, well trained people, on this work, and then give them some leeway. Them, not to we the members ourselves, except by the method that we're using here now, but to give to them the opportunity of correcting obvious

MR. CAMPBELL (Continued)
errors, because there's no point in having a competent staff of that kind let such obvious errors, perhaps as the one mentioned by the honourable the member for Swan River, slip by and then have to be corrected in here, because it makes a lot of extra trouble for we folk.

I notice in one of the reports the other day, I didn't bother bringing it to the attention of the House, but I notice the wrong spelling for the word complimentary, I think it was when my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, in connection with Bill Number 3, although I'm not certain that was the occasion, had used the word "complementary legislation," and it was the other kind of complimentary. And it's things of that kind, now I'm sure that the staff who are working on that job are well enough trained, that they know the difference between the two, and I think a little more care would obviate a lot of these difficulties that we have to raise.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I agree with much that has been said on the subject of Hansard this afternoon. We are pleased that we took the decision to have a Hansard established in this House so there could be a record of the remarks that the members make in the House, and must admit that the reproduction of those remarks that appears in Hansard is not perfect. On the other hand, I think it's a tolerable effort. It seems to me, that, few if any of the addresses delivered here are what one might call literary works of art. And in the course of speaking, one follows a speaking style rather than a literary style, which means that occasionally you get interjections and parenthetical thoughts expressed as you go along, that you never do in writing, but which you do in speaking, and which, perhaps are a little bit hard to decipher, when someone is listening to those remarks from a record or a tape-recording machine afterwards. And while I can't speak from direct knowledge, I think it is the endeavour of the people who put Hansard together, to try and reduce what might be an ungrammatical sentence to something a little more suitable, and chop off some of the dangling participles and trailing phrases that we leave around as we speak in a debate such as this sort.

In reading Hansard, I do notice some errors, however, most of the ones that I see are not important. They don't really effect the substance of what was said, but perhaps they express it a little inelegantly, or they use a word that the speaker might really have not wished to use, but the sense is there. And I certainly have no objection, I think it all to the good, that those members who feel that the sense of what they have said has been in any way distorted, should take advantage of the moment before the Orders of the Day, as some have done, to make those corrections.

I am sure that those who are in charge of Hansard will take due notice of what has been said here and endeavour to produce a more workmanlike document. And I suppose that if we are a little patient with them and when the next session rolls along, when more experience has been gathered, we can expect a better product. And I can assure the members of House that it will be the aim of the

MR. ROBLIN (Continued)
government, and I know the aim of those who are responsible for the actual work to improve the product that's turned out.

I, of course, agree heartily with the remarks that have been offered by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition about reading speeches. It's a reprehensible habit, as I have made it quite clear it's one that I do not follow, although I confess to him, and I freely admit to anyone that wants to know, that I do prepare my important speeches, or what, perhaps, I may be allowed to think of perhaps as being speeches of some value, at least to me. And I say to the honourable members that I commend the practice of preparing speeches, I commend the practice of having notes when you wish to speak on any important matter, because it makes some of us a little more logical and a little less long-winded than we otherwise are.

MR. CAMPBELL: ....another matter, and it should be very appropriate before the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture speaks, I think, because I, just glancing through, thought I should raise the question of seeing to it that no favouritism is shown by the staff who are responsible for Hansard. I notice on Page 7 that there's an evidence of favouritism because we find that one member of the House is mentioned here, just simply as Mr. Roblin, whereas another member of the house is referred to as Honourable E.F.Willis, Q.C. And I think we should insist that reasonable fairness to everybody should prevail and that no favouritism should be shown, regardless of the merits of the individuals involved.

MR. ROBLIN: ....I'll let the Honourable the First Minister stand on my dignity if he wants to. I made a mistake there, didn't I? The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I've been waiting for the time to do that and now it's come.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources): On this same point, I think, Mr. Chairman, it might be well to point out, that the first time that an honourable member enters a particular debate, I think, that they endeavour to give a full title, for that person entering that series of speeches, but if there are interjections or interruptions, the second or third time that that person is quoted, I think it might just say Mr. So and So.

MR. W. C. MILLER (Rhineland): ....such as the reference to the honourable member for Seven Oaks that I quoted.

HON. ERRICK WILLIS, Q.C. (Minister of Agriculture and Immigration): Mr. Chairman, I think there is a great lesson here for young politicians like the honourable member for Swan River, because he has learned this early in his life that you're damned if you do and damned if you don't, no matter how you spell it.

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Chairman, I would like

MR. GUTTORMSON (Continued)
to offer a suggestion for the Minister's consideration. In cases where there is an interjection during a speech unless the recording machine picks up the interjection that they should drop the answer made by the speaker on his feet. Otherwise, it doesn't make any sense whatsoever, but if you can put in the interjection then I believe it would be quite in order to put in his answer, but otherwise it leaves it meaningless.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution #1 - $104,725. Resolution #1 passed. Resolution #2, Executive Council. Gift re Springhill, N.S. Mine Disaster - $10,000.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, what has been done by the government to stimulate the public to contribute?

MR. ROBLIN: I think it's coming along very well indeed, Mr. Chairman. I have been watching the results of that and I think it's well over half a million dollars now, and I think it's coming on very well.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say a brief word on this. I think it's admirable that we here in the Province of Manitoba, as elsewhere in the Dominion, are recognizing the catastrophe that happened this year and has happened in the past in Springhill, Nova Scotia. I think it is an indication, that we, the people of Canada, do recognize the trials and tribulations of all people within our Dominion. It's a very admirable step, and I'm sure that no matter who happened to occupy the seats opposite, that this would have been done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution Number 3, Capital Supply. Highways, roads and related projects, structures and facilities. Construction and reconstruction and all works incidental thereto, including acquisition of right-of-way.

MR. WILLIS: Mr. Chairman, if I might say a preliminary word, before detailing the program which we have on hand.

May I say that while we will detail today the largest program in the history of the province, there will probably be as well a winter session, at which time, if the Opposition is kind, or unkind, whichever it is, if we are still here, there will be another road program as well, so that the balance will come at that time.

We are introducing a program at this time, particularly in order that there may be an early start on roads next year. Indeed, we have hopes that some of those items which will be announced today will be partly constructed this fall, and certainly the bridges and drainage work will be done this year. We believe that by announcing the road program now, that in many cases, we shall save more than one month in the spring, because, irrespective of whether contracts are let this fall or not, we are going to inform the contractors, we are going to advertise in the newspapers, our intention to call for contracts in regard to various roads,

SAMPLE PAGES FROM CURRENT

ONTARIO 'HANSARD'

I refer particularly to the provisions of the bill which in fact remove the rights which had been expressly established for the young people of this province, the students attending postsecondary schools, to vote where they were resident.

If the Prime Minister had been here for the debate, he would realize that the repeal of one of the special rules that had been enacted two years ago—and in fact had been in practice at the election in 1967—is a gross interference with those rights.

I publicly expressed our opposition to the government's position and I personally said that I regretted the fact that the Prime Minister was not in his place—

Mr. D. A. Paterson (Essex South): The member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) was in the Premier's place!

Mr. Nixon: —to take part in the debate and assist the Minister without Portfolio in putting forward the government's position. I would say it was indefensible. He used the majority to ram it through this House and it is a matter of some concern, particularly that the first minister would treat this matter of importance the way he did.

Hon. W. G. Davis (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in that the Leader of the Opposition felt prompted to try and rescue his party's very lamentable position on so many of these issues this morning, I would only make this very brief observation:

Firstly, the Minister without Portfolio does not need the assistance of any other minister. He has the capacity to handle these things very admirably himself.

Mr. Nixon: He has learned to fight alone. The Prime Minister was not even in here to help him.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Secondly, Mr. Speaker, he very adequately and articulately expressed the position and the feelings of the government as it relates to this particular bill.

Mr. Nixon: The Prime Minister reverses his personal position on every opportunity. He has to fight on new ground every day.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this bill represents the feelings of this government as it relates to those people 18 to 21 years of age. It ill behooves the Leader of the Opposition at this particular time in history to stand up and give the indication that this party, this government, has not taken a more progressive attitude as it relates to young people in this province than he or his colleagues have ever taken or demonstrated. This is made very clear in this Act and The Age of Majority Act.

Mr. Nixon: The Prime Minister makes nice announcements, but his legislation belies them.

Mr. D. C. MacDonald (York South): Lest it be lost in this rather vigorous political exchange this morning, I just want it on the record that we in this party believe that this is a very poor bill. The government gave to the youth with one hand and took away with the other hand. In fact they gave them the right and then they established a procedure.

Mr. Nixon: Political window dressing.

Mr. MacDonald: However, Mr. Speaker, we are already on the record and a little bit more politicking here is not going to make any difference. It will count out in the hustings and the youth of today are getting spirited to deal with the government.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is for third reading of Bill 125. It is the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

As many as are in favour of the motion, will please say "aye."

As many as are opposed, will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

THIRD READINGS
(concluded)

Bill 125, An Act to amend The Election Act, 1968-1969.

Bill 126, An Act to amend The Legislative Assembly Act.

Bill 129, An Act to amend The Mining Act.

Mr. E. W. Sopha (Sudbury): We never heard from the Premier on unemployment.

Hon. Mr. Davis: We are not finished yet.

Mr. I. Deans (Wentworth): The Premier is not only finished; he is washed up.

Mr. Speaker: I thought perhaps members would like to know that the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Haskett) is now completing 12 years in this House, his ninth

session. He has never missed a session and he tells me also—and I presume the opposition would have knowledge and agree—that he has always been here for question period when he had a ministerial chair.

Mr. Sopha: That is unique.

Mr. Speaker: I think both those records are unusual and I think worth noting.

Mr. Sopha: That is why they kicked him out of the cabinet.

Hon. A. A. Wishart (Minister of Financial and Commercial Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Lieutenant Governor is standing by for royal assent.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the legislative assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald (Lieutenant Governor): Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the legislative assembly of the province has, at it present sittings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said legislative assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour' assent.

Clerk Assistant: The following are the titles of bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 64, An Act to Provide for the Registration of Businesses engaged in the Distribution of Paperback and Periodical Publications.

Bill 65, The Human Tissue Gift Act, 1971.

Bill 81, An Act to amend The Insurance Act.

Bill 82, An Act to amend The Health Services Insurance Act, 1968-69.

Bill 94, An Act to Protect the Natural Environment.

Bill 100, An Act to amend The Northern Ontario Development Corporation Act, 1970.

Bill 101, An Act to amend The Liquor Control Act.

Bill 104, An Act to amend The Department of Education Act.

Bill 105, An Act to amend The Schools Administration Act.

Bill 107, An Act to amend The Children's Boarding Homes Act.

Bill 109, An Act to amend The Family Benefits Act, 1966.

Bill 110, An Act to amend The Day Nurseries Act, 1966.

Bill 117, An Act to regulate the Exploration and Drilling for, and the Production and Storage of Oil and Gas.

Bill 119, An Act to amend The Public Health Act.

Bill 120, An Act to regulate Pits and Quarries and to provide for their Rehabilitation.

Bill 121, An Act to amend The Niagara Parks Act.

Bill 122, An Act respecting the Age of Majority and Accountability.

Bill 124, an Act to amend The Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act.

Bill 125, An Act to amend The Election Act, 1968-69.

Bill 126, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Bill 129, An Act to amend The Mining Act.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable, the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour: We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects of the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario in session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to present for Your Honour's acceptance, a bill intituled, An Act granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 1972.

Clerk of the House: The Honourable, the Lieutenant Governor doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill in Her Majesty's name.

The Honourable, the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to to retire from the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, I would, in spite of the dialogue of the past two or three days, like to express, very briefly, a very sincere word of appreciation to the Leader of the Opposition, the members of his party; and, in the absence—I understand on matters of urgent public importance—of the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis), to the member for York

South and, through him, to that individual and members of his party, my appreciation in my first session here as Prime Minister, or Premier of this province, for the substantial degree of constructive cooperation which, by and large, emanated from the hon. members opposite, in assisting us to develop one of the most progressively comprehensive and conservative programmes of legislation that this House has seen in some many years.

I would also like to extend to them, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues on this side of the House, my best wishes for a well-deserved, perhaps relatively brief summer recess, but nonetheless one that I am sure the general public would understand, after the past seven or eight days at least, is well deserved by all members of this assembly.

Hon. Mr. Davis moves that when this House adjourns today it do stand adjourned until a date to be named by the Lieutenant Governor by his proclamation.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, before the motion is put, I wonder if the Premier can indicate more clearly what his intentions are. When he refers to a rather brief vacation, is he referring to the possibility of this House being reconvened some time in the next few weeks to complete the business of the province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I do not preclude the possibility of this House resuming its deliberations some time in the fall. I do not preclude that. But that is the—

Mr. MacDonald: The Premier is keeping all his options open.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I learned that very early in my political career.

Mr. Nixon: Last Friday morning the Premier learned it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I was hopeful last Friday, but some of the leader's members became a little verbose.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Before I adjourn the House, I think I should on behalf of members here express our appreciation to the servants of the House, the sessional attendants, the regular attendants, the pages, the clerks, the people who have enabled us to operate at the pace we have operated. I am sure the members have appreciated the services they received from these people over and above the normal hours.

Mr. Nixon: And the interjectionists.

Mr. Speaker: Then may I say to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the acting leader of the New Democratic Party, that I hope everyone has a good rest regardless of what the eventuality may be as discussed shortly here between the leaders.

Mr. Sopha: It is a day of benevolence!

Mr. Speaker: No question period, so it is a day of benevolence.

Interjections by hon. members.

Hon. Mr. Davis moves the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: This House stands adjourned until a date to be named by the Lieutenant Governor by his proclamation.

The House adjourned at 10:30 o'clock a.m.

APPENDIX I

SAMPLE PAGES FROM CURRENT

NEW BRUNSWICK 'SYNOPTIC RECORD'

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the chair when the committee rose.

Mr. CYR reported Bills Nos. 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 as agreed to; Nos. 48 and 61 as amended, and progress on No. 62.

Time House Sits

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY, that when the House adjourns it stand adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

Outline of Work

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, will the Premier advise the House what the order of business will be tomorrow?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, there is a possibility that we might go on bills—there is one left—but I don't know what the Order of the Day will contain for tomorrow. If we do not go in committee of the whole, we will go in committee of supply, and the Provincial Secretary's estimates will be considered, followed by those of the Department of Education.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD moved that the House adjourn.

The House adjourned at 12 o'clock midnight.

Daily Sitting No. 23

Assembly Chamber,
Saturday, April 4, 1970.

The House met at 10 a.m.

Third Reading

The following bills were read the third time and passed:

Nos. 28 (Saint John public streets amdt.); 30 (Mission La Bonne Nouvelle amdt.); 38 (Saint John Pension, 1947, amdt.); 39 (Tri-Village Recreation and Parks Commission incorp.); 42 (Embalmers and Funeral Directors amdt; 43 (Motor Vehicle, 1955, amdt.); 44 (Co-Operative Associations amdt.); 45 (Income Tax amdt.); 46 (Members Superannuation, 1968, amdt.); 47 (Guarantee amdt.); 49 (Municipalities amdt.); 54 (Collection Agencies amdt.); 55 (Sheriffs amdt.); 56 (Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders amdt.); 57 (Crown Prosecutors amdt.); 58 (Deputy Attorney General repeal); 59 (Mining Income Tax amdt.), and 60 (Game amdt.).

Second Reading

Bill No. 64 (Miramichi Auxiliary Home) was read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole House.

Oral Questions

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Premier: Did the Hon. Mr. Drury, the federal cabinet minister, make an official visit to New Brunswick last month?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, I understand it was the end of March or the first of April. It was a short while ago, anyway.

Mr. HATFIELD: Could the Premier tell us the purpose of his visit?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, maybe somebody else could answer that better than I, because I didn't see him.

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance: Could he tell us the purpose of Mr. Drury's visit?

Hon. Mr. DesBRISAY: Mr. Speaker, there were several other cabinet ministers there, perhaps they could answer better than I could.

Mr. BAXTER: They couldn't absorb what he had to say.

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Premier why the meeting with the federal cabinet minister was not made public?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, I am told that it was made public, because the pictures were in the papers.

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Education: Could he tell us the purpose of Mr. Drury's meeting?

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't in the picture that was published, so perhaps someone else could best answer.

Mr. STAIRS: There is some justice, after all.

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Premier, What cabinet minister was present?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: I don't know. I wasn't there.

Hon. Mr. WILLIAMSON: Try again, Dick.

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier would tell this House, in all seriousness, what was the purpose of the minister's visit? Was it a joke? Was his visit treated with contempt, or what?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, I don't know, really. I just heard one night that the minister was in town and they were going to meet at 8 o'clock the following morning. I don't know what the purpose of it was. I wasn't invited to the meeting. I am sure that it wasn't a joke; I am sure there was a purpose, and I am also sure that, as usual, the purpose was accomplished, but personally, I don't know what it was.

Mr. HATFIELD: Mr. Speaker, are we to assume then that the Premier does not know what is going on in his government?

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Mr. Speaker, no.

Mr. McINERNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour: Is it the minister's intention to introduce at this session the much needed new Labour Relations Act containing the major recommendations of the nonpartisan committee of the Legislative Assembly?

Hon. Mr. NADEAU: Mr. Speaker, we are still waiting for the report of the committee that was appointed for that purpose.

Mr. McINERNEY: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question: Is he referring to a separate committee than the Legislative Committee that reported years ago?

Hon. Mr. NADEAU: It is the committee that was recommended by the Legislative Committee.

Mr. McINERNEY: I was there, but, boys, oh dear, I don't remember that one.

Mr. STAIRS: So was I there.

Mr. BISHOP: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Highways: Would he tell us how much money is available in 1970 for the Chipman to Doaktown road?

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): Mr. Speaker, there is none so far; the money is not even voted yet.

Mr. BISHOP: Mr. Speaker, I don't know to which minister I would direct this question, but was money taken out of the Grand Lake Development Corporation funds last year for this road?

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, yes. I will attempt to answer the two questions. A road to resources is to be upgraded for the purposes of supply of raw material for the mills that are there now, for the new mills that are being built and for recreational purposes under the terms of reference of the Grand Lake Development Act. We are working in conjunction with the Department of Highways, but at this time I cannot specify the amount of money.

Mr. BISHOP: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell me how much money was spent last year?

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, committed toward a contract for bridge construction was approximately $80,000.

Mr. BISHOP: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question: Could the minister tell me if any of this money has been paid out?

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate that all of it probably would be by this time, with the exception of a possible holdback.

Mr. BISHOP: Mr. Speaker, just what was done with this money? There are no bridges there yet.

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, an approximate amount of $80,000 was available. One of the problems in the area is the construction of two bridges, and the money has been forwarded for a contract to prepare the precast cement steel girders.

Mr. BISHOP: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question: Are the piers built yet to carry these structures?

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to pretend to be able to give the engineering aspect of this, but as I understand it, there are no piers involved, just the foundations on the bank, and the contracts are to be given out.

Mr. STAIRS: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Education. Could he advise how many district and/or regional superintendents of schools have submitted their resignations or indicated their intent so to do within the past year?

Mr. BAXTER: I think you will have to wait until spring for an answer to that one.

Mr. HATFIELD: He needs an adding machine.

Mr. McINERNEY: Why don't you just say "Most of them," and let it go at that?

Hon. Mr. HIGGINS: He doesn't want to shoot before he checks.

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, one regional superintendent has indicated his intention to resign; one district superintendent has resigned and has now reapplied for the same job; one district superintendent has indicated his intention to resign and has not completed the resignation, as it appears that between the school boards involved there is a discussion as to whether he wants to or will be retained in the position; one district superintendent has resigned on pension to take another job in education, and one has been asked to resign by his school board. I think that is the list.

Mr. STAIRS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question: Does the minister, in some of these resignations at least, see a dissatisfication by these persons with the present educational system, as some of them have indicated?

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, the job of a superintendent, both district and regional, is an important and pressure-filled job. I am sure there are times when anyone under pressure feels dissatisfied, and I think an example of that is the first district superintendent I mentioned who resigned—I assume he was dissatisfied about something—and who has now asked to have his job back. Obviously, the dissatisfaction was as a result of pressure of the job and the general desire, perhaps, for a change of scene which didn't turn out to be quite so much better.

I don't accept the relatively few changes of jobs to be a condemnation of the system in any way.

Mr. STAIRS: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker: Could the minister advise what district it was where the superintendent resigned and now asks to be rehired?

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, no.

Mr. STAIRS: The question was "could" he advise? Does he mean he can't or he won't?

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, I think it is not a question I should answer publicly, but I will answer privately if the member wishes.

Mr. STAIRS: I will try to keep this public then, thank you.

Mr. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Chairman of the Power Commission: Would he entertain an invitation to visit the Tobique Valley?

Hon. Mr. CROCKER: Mr. Speaker, thank you, yes.

Mr. RIDEOUT: Thank you.

Mr. AMES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Natural Resources if he is prepared to answer the question I asked him several days ago

concerning camp sites involved in the transfer of land between Georgia Pacific and his department.

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, I have the number here, but I haven't the details. There were nine camp sites involved on the lands that have been exchanged.

Mr. AMES: A supplementary question: Were their interests properly protected? I understand some had large holdings and gave a considerable amount of employment.

Hon. Mr. DUFFIE: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fair to say that to the best of my knowledge their interests have been protected.

Mr. MOOERS: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Highways: In view of the answer he gave to a question yesterday or the day before, could he advise the House if the bridge across the Nashwaak River at Durham will be started this year?

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure. I don't think so.

Mr. MOOERS: You don't think so?

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): I don't think it will be started this year, although I am not sure. I will have to check, but I don't think it is in the planning.

Mr. MOOERS: A supplementary question: Are you going to rebuild the bridge at Durham either this year or next year?

Mr. BISHOP: They won't be over there next year.

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): I am not sure. There is one bridge on the Nashwaak that was washed out and that we don't intend to replace, but I don't exactly remember whether that is the one or not.

Mr. MOOERS: A new question, Mr. Speaker: How many bridges on the Nashwaak were washed out?

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): I'll have to check to make sure.

Mr. BAXTER: Ask the Premier.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: I counted about 19 in all, but I don't know how many of them were on the Nashwaak.

Mr. McINERNEY: You know that Kent County has 20. Face the facts.

Mr. MOOERS: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask this question: Did you say there is one bridge on the Nashwaak that was washed out in the flood that you are not going to rebuild? Is that the statement you made?

Hon. Mr. RICHARD (Kent): We haven't really decided, but we have talked about one that probably we may not have to replace. I am not sure, but I think it is the Durham Bridge.

Mr. MOOERS: There is just one short statement I wish to make, Mr. Speaker. The name of the village where the bridge was located is Durham Bridge, so if you don't rebuild the bridge, we will have to rename the village.

Hon. Mr. ROBICHAUD: Oh, no!

Mrs. ROBERTSON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education: Do you plan new accommodation for the school board office in District 15, Sir?

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, ultimately it will be necessary to provide new accommodation for the school board office in District 15.

Mrs. ROBERTSON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: That is not very enlightening. Do you anticipate new accommodation this year, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Mr. MELDRUM: Mr. Speaker, I can only answer that the school board in District 15 has indicated to us that within a period, perhaps as short as five years, there will be two elementary schools surplus in the city of Moncton. I think it is reasonable that we should consider using these buildings and these facilities for perhaps school board offices or other school board purposes, but I can't really answer the question until a thorough study of this potential is complete.

First Reading

Hon. Mr. HIGGINS introduced Bill No. 65, to amend the Assessment Act, which was read the first time.

SAMPLE PAGES FROM CURRENT

QUEBEC 'JOURNAL DES DEBATS'

Assemblée nationale

journal des Débats

Deuxième session — 29e Législature

Le vendredi 19 novembre 1971

Vol. 11 — N° 91

Président : l'honorable Jean-Noël Lavoie

j'aimerais prendre avis de la question parce qu'un comité a siégé hier et qu'il y a eu rencontre avec les propriétaires et les chauffeurs de taxi. Je n'ai pas reçu, ce matin, le rapport de ce comité. Je prends avis de la question et je donnerai une réponse la semaine prochaine.

M. TREMBLAY (Sainte-Marie): Une question supplémentaire, M. le Président. On sait que le rapport Bossé a été présenté il y a environ un an. Le ministre a-t-il l'intention d'appliquer les recommandations de ce rapport dans un avenir assez rapproché ou s'il va rester aux oubliettes?

M. TREMBLAY (Bourassa): Le rapport ne demeurera pas aux oubliettes. Il a été, encore hier, étudié. Lorsqu'un rapport est déposé, cela ne veut pas dire que tout ce qu'il dit est accepté. Le rapport a été étudié par un comité qui a siégé hier et ce comité ne m'a pas encore fait rapport. La semaine prochaine, je vous donnerai le rapport du rapport.

M. LE PRESIDENT: L'honorable député de Saint-Maurice

Jeux d'hiver à Shawinigan

M. DEMERS: Ma question s'adresse au ministre de l'Education. Je voudrais savoir du ministre s'il y a des développements au sujet des jeux d'hiver qui doivent ou non se tenir à Shawinigan. Je voudrais avoir d'autres informations, à savoir si les gens de Shawinigan doivent se limiter à la décision qui a été rendue au début de la semaine et énoncée en Chambre par le représentant du Haut-Commissariat à la jeunesse, aux loisirs et aux sports, le député de Fabre.

M. SAINT-PIERRE: Nous avons poursuivi, au cours de la semaine, des rencontres pour voir les possibilités d'aider la ville de Shawinigan, non dans le cadre des dépenses d'immobilisation du Haut-Commissariat mais des zones spéciales, avec l'OPDQ.

Il y a une rencontre, ce matin à Montréal, entre les représentants de la Corporation des jeux du Québec, des représentants, je crois, de la ville de Shawinigan et des représentants du haut-commissariat. Je tiens à dire que les règles du jeu étaient très claires lorsque nous avons établi la Corporation des jeux du Québec. La contribution financière du gouvernement s'élève à plus de $660,000 pour l'organisation des jeux d'été et d'hiver. Il n'est nullement question que le gouvernement s'engage chaque fois à réaliser des programmes importants d'immobilisation pour les villes.

Nous sommes prêts, dans le cadre de nos programmes habituels, à tenter de faire l'impossible pour accélérer l'échéancier dans le cas des investissements scolaires et municipaux mais il n'y a pas de subvention particulière surtout lorsque la demande nous provient trois mois avant le début des jeux pour des programmes d'immobilisation.

M. DEMERS: Quelle est la réponse du ministre, somme toute?

UNE VOIX: C'est clair.

M. DEMERS: Pourrais-je avoir une réponse?

M. LE PRESIDENT: L'honorable député de Mégantic.

Travaux d'hiver

M. DUMONT: Merci, M. le Président. Ma question s'adresse au ministre des Finances et concerne une déclaration qu'il a faite hier au sujet des programmes d'initiative locale. D'après les épreuves du journal des Débats, il a mentionné 30 jours-hommes au lieu de 30 mois-hommes.

Comme cela fait une différence de $6,000 à $25,000 dans le projet, pourrait-il d'abord rectifier sa déclaration et, deuxièmement, est-ce l'intention du ministre de négocier avec Ottawa pour que cet article 30 mois-hommes soit changé afin d'aider les petites municipalités pour les programmes de $25,000 et moins?

M. GARNEAU: M. le Président, je ne veux pas faire erreur, n'ayant malheureusement pas le document devant moi, concernant cette référence; si le député de Mégantic le permet, je lui répondrai mardi prochain.

M. LE PRESIDENT: Dernière question. Le député de Maskinongé.

Tarif du téléphone

M. PAUL: M. le Président, je voudrais poser une question au ministre de la propagande et des Communications, l'honorable député de Deux-Montagnes. Le ministre peut-il informer la Chambre quant à la conduite que le gouvernement entend tenir au sujet de la demande d'augmentation de tarif présentée à la Commission canadienne des transports par Bell Canada? Comme question subsidiaire, le ministre peut-il confirmer ou nier la nouvelle de la publication, cet après-midi, d'un communiqué de presse aux fins de prévenir tous les délégués au congrès libéral de ce soir que Paul Desrochers sera armé d'un pistolet de calibre 45 à canon sculpté?

M. LEVESQUE: M. le Président, le première partie de la question est irrégulière.

M. LE PRESIDENT: Considérez-vous la deuxième régulière?

M. LOUBIER: La deuxième est pour le moins explosive.

M. LACROIX: Il a tué l'Union Nationale.

M. LOUBIER: M. le Président, le ministre pourrait-il répondre au moins à la deuxième question, qui est pour le moins explosive, celle-là?

M. L'ALLIER: M. le Président, indépendamment de la recevabilité douteuse de la question, il me fait plaisir de fournir au député de Maskinongé les renseignements qu'il souhaite. Quant à la demande de modification de tarification présentée par la société Bell Canada à la Commission canadienne des transports, il est très vraisemblable que le gouvernement du Québec, sur recommandation du ministère des Communications et par le ministère de la Justice, fasse valoir un point de vue différent de celui de la société devant la Commission canadienne des transports. Nous étudions actuellement cette demande d'augmentation de tarifs, qui est extrêmement complexe et qui a été présentée dans un document de plus de 200 pages par la société. Dès que nous en arriverons à une conclusion, à ce sujet, s'il y a lieu, des actions nécessaires seront prises devant la Commission des transports et j'en informerai la Chambre.

M. PAUL: Question additionnelle, M. le Président; l'honorable ministre pourrait-il vérifier les informations à l'effet que le gouvernement fédéral et celui de l'Ontario ont annoncé déjà leur décision de contester cette requête?

M. L'ALLIER: Je suis informé effectivement que le gouvernement fédéral et celui de l'Ontario vont contester cette requête et je rappelle au député de Maskinongé que, lors de la dernière demande de modification de tarifs par la société Bell Canada, le gouvernement du Québec avait également fait opposition à l'augmentation de tarifs.

Le dossier qui nous est présenté maintenant doit être étudié à fond, dans toutes ses conséquences, et ce n'est pas parce qu'un autre ordre de gouvernement ou un gouvernement voisin prend une décision que nous prenons nécessairement la même.

M. LE PRESIDENT: Affaires du jour.

M. LEVESQUE: Article 6, M. le Président

Projet de loi no 37

Deuxième lecture

M. LE PRESIDENT: Le très honorable député de Chicoutimi.

M. TREMBLAY (Chicoutimi): Excellentissime M. le Président. Au moment de l'ajournement, hier soir...

M. LEVESQUE: Le député de Chicoutimi me permet-il quelques mots afin de dissiper une équivoque qui vient de m'être signalée...

M. TREMBLAY (Chicoutimi): On ne refuse rien à un malade.

M. LEVESQUE: ...par le secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale? La motion qui a été faite pour la création de la commission parlementaire incluait, dans mon esprit du moins, une déférence à des projets de loi appelés en première lecture, hier, 250 et suivants, à cette commission parlementaire.

M. TREMBLAY (Chicoutimi): C'est toujours mon excellence qui a la parole? Alors, M. le Président, au moment où j'ai demandé, hier soir, l'ajournement, je posais des questions au ministre sur la signification du paragraphe 3 des notes explicatives de ce projet de loi où il est dit que l'article 2 confie au ministre des Communications la responsabilité...

M. LE PRESIDENT (Blank): A l'ordre, messieurs!

Le député de Chicoutimi.

M. TREMBLAY (Chicoutimi): M. le Président, je ne suis pas particulièrement pressé. Je peux attendre que la Chambre se vide et que la majorité silencieuse se retire...

M. TETLEY: A qui la faute, si la Chambre se vide?

M. TREMBLAY (Chicoutimi): Par votre manque d'intelligence, cher ami, et par votre manque de curiosité intellectuelle.

Alors, M. le Président, "L'article 2 — dit-on dans ces notes explicatives — confie au ministre la responsabilité d'assurer la coordination des services de communication des corporations municipales et scolaires, des communautés urbaines ou régionales et de divers autres organismes publics avec les services du gouvernement."

Je m'interrogeais, hier, et j'interrogeais le ministre sur le sens et la portée de ces pouvoirs que le ministre a réclamés. Qu'est-ce que le ministre entend faire dans le domaine des communications et de la coordination des communications avec les commissions scolaires, avec les corporations municipales et autres organismes publics?

Le ministre, dans son exposé, ne nous a pas dit exactement quel était le sens de cette disposition que l'on retrouve à l'article 2 c). Je n'ai évidemment pas le droit d'examiner en détail cet article 2, mais j'ai quand même le droit de m'interroger, puisque le ministre en fait mention dans les notes explicatives, sur la portée, sur la signification exactes de ces pouvoirs que réclame le ministre.

Je lui disais, notamment hier soir, que le gouvernement, en plus de vouloir assurer une coordination de l'information gouvernementale, veut en même temps assurer une coordina-

tion de l'information du gouvernement et des organismes comme les corporations municipales et les commissions scolaires. Mais à quelles fins exactement? Par quels moyens? Pour quelles raisons? Dans quel but a-t-on inséré cette disposition dans le présent projet de loi? C'est encore là un des points obscurs du projet qui nous est soumis et au sujet duquel nous nous devrons d'interroger le ministre et au sujet duquel le ministre devra fournir des explications très nettes, très précises, très circonstanciées.

Nous comprenons que le ministre veuille coordonner l'information gouvernementale. Nous sommes d'accord, en principe, pour que le gouvernement prenne des moyens de faire connaître aux organismes publics, aux corporations municipales et aux commissions scolaires les grandes lignes de sa politique, mais est-ce que cela ne laisse pas croire que le gouvernement veut, par ce moyen, influencer la politique des commissions scolaires et des corporations municipales? Est-ce qu'il ne veut pas influencer l'information que ces organismes veulent et doivent donner aux citoyens qu'ils représentent? Est-ce que ce n'est pas un moyen que veut prendre le gouvernement pour s'assurer qu'il y ait unité dans le domaine de l'information, qu'il y ait monolithisme dans la propagande gouvernementale?

On dit dans l'article qu'il sera question de faire connaître au gouvernement les programmes des commissions scolaires, les programmes des corporations municipales. Mais pourquoi tout cela? Est-ce que le gouvernement veut prendre en main la direction de l'information afin que les citoyens découvrent, à travers les gestes posés par des organismes qui sont, quand même, indépendants, que c'est lui qui, à toutes fins pratiques, dirige directement les corporations municipales, les commissions scolaires et les autres organismes qui sont mentionnés dans le projet de loi?

Voilà encore un sujet d'inquiétude qui naît de la lecture attentive du projet de loi présenté par le ministre des Communications. J'indiquais, hier soir, que le ministre avait évité de traiter les véritables problèmes, de toucher aux véritables questions et de nous renseigner sur un certain nombre de points, six en particulier. J'y ajoute, ce matin, un septième sujet, cette question de la coordination de l'information gouvernementale avec l'information qui doit être diffusée par les corporations municipales et les commissions scolaires.

En commission parlementaire, le ministre voudra, sans doute, nous renseigner là-dessus. Mais il aurait dû le faire immédiatement parce que nous ne savons pas très bien, en raison de la provision qui est incluse dans l'article, quelle est la portée du projet de loi étant donné cette volonté, du moins c'est là ce qui nous apparaît à première vue, d'intrusion du gouvernement dans le domaine des communications par la voie des organismes municipaux et scolaires.

M. le Président, j'ai dit, hier soir, que l'exposé du ministre péchait surtout par ses omissions. Ainsi, par exemple, le ministre ne nous a pas parlé du tout de l'état actuel de l'OIPQ. Qu'est-ce qu'il en reste de l'OIPQ? Quelle est la programmation de l'OIPQ? Quel est l'organigramme actuel de l'OIPQ étant donné qu'on a déplacé, semble-t-il, passablement de pions sur l'échiquier? Lorsque j'emploie le mot "pion", je ne préjuge pas de la qualité des fonctionnaires de l'OIPQ. Je dis plutôt que c'est le ministre qui les a traités comme des pions et qui les déplace à volonté, au gré de sa fantaisie ou au gré des influences qu'il subit depuis le cabinet du premier ministre.

Le ministre devra donc nous dire, avant que nous puissions examiner ce projet de loi, quelle est actuellement la situation à l'OIPQ. Est-ce qu'il y a encore un organigramme? Au fait, est-ce qu'il y a encore du monde à l'OIPQ? Qu'est-ce que l'OIPQ publie outre le bulletin que nous recevons périodiquement et qui n'est, au fait, qu'une redite de tout ce que nous avons pu lire dans les journaux ou de ce qui a pu être diffusé ou télédiffusé et dont les citoyens ont déjà pris connaissance? Quel est le travail exact de l'OIPQ? Quel est le travail exact des directeurs d'information de chaque ministère auprès de l'OIPQ?

Quelle est l'action des directeurs de cabinet, des secrétaires d'information des ministres auprès des membres de l'OIPQ? De quelle façon l'action de ces secrétaires de presse influe-t-elle sur le dynanisme ou sur le manque de dynanisme de l'OIPQ? Il aurait fallu que le ministre nous fît une démonstration de la vitalité de l'OIPQ et qu'il exposât très clairement la situation qui prévaut, à l'heure actuelle, étant donné que cette situation ne paraît pas très bonne, si l'on réfère à tout ce qui sort de l'OIPQ, par voie de rumeurs ou par voie de déclarations assez fracassantes de la part de gens qui ont décidé de quitter l'OIPQ, comme de la part de gens qui ont décidé de quitter l'ORTQ.

M. le Président, le ministre aura à répondre, dans sa rélique, à cette question que je lui pose, s'il veut bien nous faire comprendre la valeur, le sens, la portée de son projet de loi.

Hier soir, M. le Président, j'évoquais un problème: celui de cette volonté du gouvernement d'associer l'Etat québécois à l'entreprise de presse. J'ai demandé au ministre, hier soir — j'y reviens ce matin parce que cela est important — si on avait entrepris des recherches, si on avait mené des enquêtes, si on avait fait des consultations, si on était entré en contact avec des gens qui sont responsables, à un titre ou l'autre, en qualité de propriétaires ou autrement, d'entreprises de presse. Je parle ici de presse électronique, radio et télédiffusion, puisque, dans les notes explicatives, on se rend compte que le gouvernement voudrait associer l'Etat québécois à des entreprises de presse, par la voie d'une participation au capital-actions.

Alors, le ministre peut-il me dire si l'on a

entamé des consultations avec certaines entreprises de presse? En serait-il, dans ce domaine, comme il en a été dans le cas du projet de la baie James, c'est-à-dire est-ce qu'une éminence grise aurait déjà pris des initiatives que le ministre ignorerait ou dont il aurait été informé de façon plus ou moins complète?

M. le Président, j'ai nettement l'impression qu'on a entamé des négociations, mais qu'on a averti le ministre en lui disant: Ecoute, mon petit Jean-Paul, nous avons entamé des négociations. Mets cela dans ton bill, parles-en dans ton bill. On te dira, en temps utile, ce que nous avons fait, parce qu'à ton âge tu ne vas quand même pas te salir dans le patronage. Est-ce que c'est cela qui s'est passé? On se rappelle ce qui s'est passé dans le cas de la baie James. C'est un personnage, qui n'est pas un membre du Parlement, qui n'est pas un membre du cabinet, qui a mené les négociations dont ont fait preuve les documents que nous avons obtenus et que nous avons présentés ici, en Chambre.

Alors, M. le Président, je voudrais que le ministre réponde. S'il a décidé, enfin, si on a décidé à sa place de parler de la participation de l'Etat à des entreprises de presse, c'est qu'on n'a quand même pas imaginé cela, on ne s'est quand même pas lancé à l'aventure. On ne vit quand même pas dans un monde utopique. Il me paraît y avoir là des justifications de certaines initiatives qui auraient été prises et qui auraient incité certaines personnes à demander au ministre d'inclure, dans son projet de loi, la disposition à laquelle on fait allusion dans l'article 3 du projet de loi.

J'aimerais que le ministre nous dise ce qui s'est passé, s'il le sait, ou qu'il aille aux renseignements. Qu'il appelle le premier ministre ou un secrétaire du premier ministre, qui, lui, communiquera avec une autre personne auprès du premier ministre pour savoir exactement ce qui s'est passé.

Vous savez que ce problème des communications gouvernementales est quelque chose de sérieux. J'ai dit hier soir que je trouvais que c'est un aspect positif de voir le gouvernement manifester l'intention de s'associer à des entreprises de presse, avec les réserves que j'ai faites toutefois que le gouvernement n'essaie pas par ce moyen de monopoliser des entreprises de presse privées qui deviendraient ses instruments déguisés de propagande. Je voudrais que le ministre nous explique clairement ce qui s'est passé, ce qui a pu se passer ou ce qui est sur le point de se passer.

L'intervention du premier ministre dans le conflit du journal La Presse fournit aujourd'hui certains éléments qui nous indiquent que le gouvernement n'est pas désintéressé à une immixtion de l'Etat québécois dans l'entreprise de presse, même l'entreprise privée, outre cette volonté qu'il a manifestée de créer lui-même ses postes de radio et de télédiffusion.

Nous en avons parlé assez longuement hier soir pour que je ne revienne pas sur les difficultés et sur l'imbroglio que le ministre des Communications a créé lui-même en lançant ce projet et en le reprenant dans le texte de loi, alors qu'il sait très bien qu'il ne dispose pas des moyens qui pourraient lui permettre d'appliquer une politique qu'il énonce dans le projet de loi que nous étudions.

Je lisais hier soir — et on me permettra d'y faire référence; ce n'est pas mon habitude de lire des textes de presse, de citer des articles de journaux, je préfère plutôt exprimer mes propres opinions — un article de M. Laurent Laplante, publié dans la revue Media de novembre 1971, sur la question de l'information gouvernementale, le problème de l'OIPQ particulièrement.

Je suis d'autant plus à l'aise pour citer cet article qu'il n'est pas très doux ni pour l'un ni pour l'autre des gouvernements. On ne peut donc pas m'accuser de vouloir tirer de mon côté l'opinion de M. Laurent Laplante. Il y a un passage qui est significatif et qui va me permettre de retrouver le ministre sur ce terrain sur lequel on l'a engagé. Il y a un petit passage ici qui est assez intéressant.

On dit ceci: "Le régime libéral n'a pas une très haute opinion de l'information." On pourrait dire que c'est un truisme. "En cela il s'apparente aux autres conseils d'administration de son monde. Au temps où Yves Michaud avait encore besoin de penser pour vivre, il avait honte pour les agents d'information et pour l'Etat québécois, parce que l'OIPQ ne possédait pas un véritable statut d'indépendance. Aujourd'hui, ses cordes vocales profitent surtout aux peuples étrangers et les stratèges libéraux — le démocratique Paul Desrochers en tête — ont ravalé l'information gouvernementale au rang de sous-service. Tous les "tataouinages" du monde ne feront pas disparaître ce fait. Il y a moins de deux ans le directeur de l'OIP discutait directement avec le premier ministre sans intermédiaire aucun, tandis que l'hypothétique Gilles Loiselle..."

M. L'ALLIER: C'est ce qu'on appelle de l'autonomie.

M. TREMBLAY (Chicoutimi): ..."s'il devient en mars prochain responsable de l'information gouvernementale devra discuter avec Julien Aubert, qui en référera à Gilles Bergeron, qui donnera son point de vue à Jean-Paul L'Allier, qui obtiendra rendez-vous avec Robert Bourassa, si Charles Denis et Paul Desrochers le veulent bien." Je veux bien être étranglé par un câble communautaire de juridiction québécoise s'il n'en est pas ainsi.

M. L'ALLIER: Est-ce que je pourrais poser une question au député de Chicoutimi? Est-ce qu'en donnant lecture de ce texte qui est digne des meilleurs pamphlets de Claude-Henri Grignon...

APPENDIX K

SAMPLE PAGES FROM CURRENT MANITOBA 'DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS'

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox

Vol. XVIII No. 111 9:30 a.m., Saturday, July 10th, 1971. Third Session, 29th Legislature.

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) . . . . . taken conscientiously, provides some fears or creates some fears for members opposite.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity, and I have the Federal Act in front of me, and there's no doubt that many of the particular sections the wording is almost identical when reworded, in some cases rephrased in the headings. But let's understand the purpose. The purpose as the Minister said, was to set up a statistical branch to dovetail with the Federal Government's particular requirements under Section 10 which provides, Section 10 of the Federal Act, which provides that a statute authority would be able to get information. Now if that's the case, and that's the intention of the government, and the government has indicated that's the intention, because that's all the Minister has said in his opening statement, then we're going to ask for the deletion of about ten clauses, because, Mr. Speaker, there's just no need for the Statistical Branch to have the snooping clauses that the Federal Government has, to be able, Mr. Speaker, at the will of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to basically do whatever they want in obtaining information from anybody, any organization, any agency in Manitoba. Now if this is not the intention, Mr. Speaker, then they will be quite happy to consent to the changes in the Act. If this was the intention, then we have a serious problem of misrepresentation in this House of the intent of the Bill.

Now the Bill speaks for itself, so someone can suggest well the Bill's clauses obviously in fact express what I said, so therefore there's no misrepresentation. But there has been misrepresentation on the principle. In effect a statistical branch will be set up that will have all the snooping powers that the Federal Government has which will have no obligation to report those statistics which in fact can do it as the will of the Cabinet on any matter and which does not prevent the Cabinet from discriminating against any person, or corporation, as a result of the information that's been provided. And that, Mr. Speaker, is an interesting change, because the wording in these particular sections are almost identical to the Federal except there are some changes that are significant. In the federal statute it provides that the Governor-in-Council and the Minister cannot discriminate against any individual, or corporation, based on the information that they've obtained. In the Provincial Act the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is admitted, the Cabinet's admitted and on the basis of this Act the Cabinet are entitled to discriminate against any individual, or corporation, based on the information that's been obtained. Now, Mr. Speaker, again is this an error or is this design?

Now let me tell you what can happen under this Act, and we've already had one example of the insurance situation, and I'm going to talk about two situations in Manitoba. One would be the insurance, and the second would be statistical information being obtained from unions, because I want to show the abuse on both sides that can occur by a government who is prepared to use these sections as they see fit.

In the case of the insurance situation in Manitoba the government having arrived at a particular decision to in fact create a government monopoly insurance scheme in Manitoba, on the basis of these sections could order the statistical branch to investigate every insurance company in Manitoba, and every insurance agency, for the purpose of gaining statistical information -- nothing improper under the terms of this Act -- and on the basis of that information the Cabinet not being restricted from discriminating against any individual, or corporation, as the Federal Government is, they then could use that information for the purpose of going into a government monopoly auto insurance scheme. Now that's one abuse. The members on the opposite side will say well, so what?

But now let's talk about the abuse by someone who wants to use that against the Unions. On the basis of the Statistical Branch's powers here and the ability of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to provide or to give direction as to what information is to be given, the Statistical Branch could be given the authority to examine the unions, who are organizations in this province, and to determine from them how many union members are party members, what party they belong to, what payments are made, if any, from union dues to any political party, and on the basis of that information, that can be published and that can be used, which is private information, by a government that wants to use that for a political campaign. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is really not the intention of the Act, I don't believe that, on the part of the government, but --(Interjection) -- I don't believe that's the intention of the government, but this is the intention of the Act, and I'm suggesting that when the Minister stands up. . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Would the honourable member agree that if the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council was included, which is what he says is true of the federal Act, that if information was

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) . . . . .obtained, that a government could still come in and bring in legislation with respect to a particular industry and it would not be considered discrimination against that industry?

MR. SPIVAK: But that doesn't answer the question of giving the Statistical Branch the power to . . .

MR. GREEN: . . . the honourable member, he gave that as an example, that the information could then be used and the government could go ahead and legislate with regards to a particular industry and that could prove discrimination. Now what if the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council was included? Would this . . .?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The question is argumentative. I believe our rules allow for questions of clarification. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: There has been a debate between the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and myself with respect to the power of government. The government basically can do anything. We admit that a majority in the Legislature do not even have to call an election in five years. They could -- Well, I suggest -- (Interjection) -- Well, I know you have it. You said that the right of revolution will occur, but I'm saying that the legal position is that the government can do almost anything, but that still does not make the situation right.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the federal Act the particular sections list the statistics without limiting them, but list the statistics that are to be obtained by the Federal Government. There's no such list in this particular Act. In addition, there are questions that remained unanswered. Will the Statistics Branch, if it is set up, have a right of access to all the sales tax information of the Provincial Government? We don't know that. Are they going to have that right? We do not know, as an example, whether the Statistics Branch will have the right of the criminal statistics that are compiled in the province. Are they going to have that right? And we do not know, Mr. Speaker, because there is a clause that is not in this Act that is in the other Act, of an offence for disclosing secret information.

Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Industry and Commerce stood up he sort of indicated that no one's going to be objecting to this Act - I think I've got his exact wording - and I think it's important because it's a sort of an innocuous kind of an Act; no one is going to be concerned about it. It's permissive legislation; it takes cognizance of the new federal legislation; it creates a responsible statistic authority in Manitoba and thereby fulfills a necessary federal prerequisite for the gaining of access to extensive data. Mr. Speaker, it is far more than that. In the hands of a government, in the hands of a government that wants to abuse this power - and I'm not again suggesting that the members opposite want to abuse this power - but in the hands of a government that wants to abuse this power, the powers of the Statistical Branch are so wide as to allow them basically to do anything they want to investigate, for the purpose of gaining information, everyone - and they would legally have the right to do that.

Now, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources can say that the government can pass a law which says that but, Mr. Speaker, may I suggest what we are doing is passing that law now, and so, Mr. Speaker, I would have to indicate to the Minister of Industry and Commerce that if his purpose, as explained in the principles of the bill, was to dovetail into the Federal Government's legislation, we on this side are prepared to approve that. If his bill is to create a Statistical Branch which will be given the wide powers that it's been given, and the right to basically proceed without any control or check or balance by the Legislature or by a court, Mr. Speaker, we are going to oppose this.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry and Commerce again will have an opportunity of explaining the position, but I suggest that the implications of this particular Act are not known. I wonder how many people in the Civil Liberties Association have any idea of what this Act really is all about. Now we are going to rush this through; it's going to go to Law Amendments, and we're going to deal with this along with 40 or 50 other Acts, and we're going to say that we've done our job, and I condemn very severely, Mr. Speaker, the government for not introducing this bill for second reading three or four weeks ago, and for not giving us the opportunity to be able to debate this, to in fact exercise our prerogative to bring public opinion to the position of understanding the erosion that can occur on their civil liberties as a result of action and legislation taken by government. And at this particular time, as I've indicated before, issues such as this become bad legislation when they're not debated in a form that is able to communicate properly and directly for a length of time to the people of Manitoba, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if the government is not prepared to eliminate those sections

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd.) . . . . . that I referred to, and just to limit it to the dovetailing into the federal legislation, that we'll have no alternative but to oppose this, to oppose it strenuously in committee and to oppose it in third reading, because basically this legislation is (a) not required for Manitoba; gives the government wider powers than should be given; and based on the fact that the government has already by one Act become involved in the private sector by eliminating competition and entering the field itself, will simply add to the fears of many people in this country and in this province of the direction that the government is going with respect to business activities, and will affect directly the kind of climate in which the private sector will be able to flourish, to be able to provide the job opportunities and the income rises for our people.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: I wonder if the honourable member could tell me the date of the legislation, the federal legislation to which he referred. I just want to get the information.

MR. SPIVAK: . . .er 29th, 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, since the government is in such a hurry to have this legislation passed at this time and not having had a proper chance to peruse it, I would therefore move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Churchill, that Bill No. 40 not be now read a second time but read six months hence.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion lost.

MR. FROESE: Ayes and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have support? Call in the members. Order, please. The question before the House is the motion of the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Beard, Bilton, Craik, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, F. Johnston, Jorgenson, McGill, McKellar, McKenzie, Patrick, Spivak, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

NAYS: Messrs. Adam, Allard, Barrow, Boyce, Burtniak, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Gottfried, Green, Hanuschak, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Pawley, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw and Walding.

MR. CLERK: Yeas 16; Nays 25.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the nays have it and I declare the motion lost. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: If there are no other speakers . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, we've heard an eloquent debate by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on this matter of statistics, statistical collection, but I'm afraid he is being a prophet of doom and gloom, and I believe I can use the cliché very well in this case, that he is making mountains out of molehills, because the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that not only has this government but previous governments in Manitoba have collected statistics from the people of this province, from industries in this province, for years and years and years, and there is no guarantee that the statistics that have been collected years ago, whether it be by the Department of Agriculture, whether it be by some other department -- (Interjection) -- Not necessarily. Not necessarily. The fact is that information has been collected and is being collected, and that there isn't the guarantee of the privacy of this information which this particular Act provides. The fact of the matter is that this statute, this Bill 40 which is now before you, provides for the establishment of privacy of information, of privacy of statistics, privacy on data on any particular company or individual. Everyone, and yet no one to date, has been responsible, generally speaking, for insuring the privacy of Mr. Citizen in these matters, and now with this bill before us, Mr. Speaker, by exact analogy with the Canada Statistics Act - which incidentally was passed in May of 1971 - at the federal level does provide specifically for the protection of citizens' privacies, and the locus of responsibility for such protection is at last clearly defined in an agency which is not part of a department, but if you read the Act clearly the agency is separate from any department. Furthermore, there are provisions whereby the employees of that particular agency must take an oath of secrecy which binds them for life, and there are penalties provided for such employees if the secrecy clauses are broken.

Now the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable member refers to lack of opportunity

(MR. EVANS cont'd.) . . . . . to debate this matter, and rushing it through and so forth, but the fact is that it was brought in for first reading on May 17th and I believe the material was available on June 4th, which was over a month ago. Not only that, I'm sure my colleagues and myself and other members of the House are prepared to sit here for several weeks in addition, if necessary, to have ample time to discuss this matter.

As I said originally, Mr. Speaker, the Act has been prepared to tie in with the federal legislation. We have worked for months, the staff has worked for months in consultation with the federal people in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and I would say, Mr. Speaker, I would remind all members that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa has been operating since 1919 and prior to that time there were other statistical agencies within the Federal Government, all of which had various pieces of legislation enabling them to collect data.

Now DBS is a separate agency from any other government department in Ottawa and cannot give that data to other departments. For example, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics cannot give the data to the income tax people in Ottawa. Under their Act this is guaranteed to be private information, that is on any individual company or any individual person. In fact, it does not publish any information unless there are three or more companies involved, or three or more individuals or three or more groups. And so therefore, Mr. Speaker, what we're doing is establishing a separate independent agency, independent of any department, including the Department of Industry and Commerce, and in this way we are gathering together into one organization the statistical collection activities and we are ensuring and enhancing the privacy of individual information.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that eight out of ten provinces, with the passage of this bill eight out of ten provinces will have established statistical agencies. The only two which will not have them, I believe, is Prince Edward Island and perhaps one other Atlantic province - I've forgotten the name of the province at the moment. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has operated under legislation similar to this for many a year and there is no evidence of malpractice; there is no evidence of Machiavellian purposes and there indeed shall be none, at least under this administration, and I'm convinced that the legislation as it is worded will work. And as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has had an excellent record in maintaining this privacy, so I'm convinced that this particular agency will do so. And as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, and this is an extremely important point, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics will not give us this information such as the census information without the passage of an Act which will guarantee the privacy of the information, and that's the whole point of the Act. The whole point of the Act is that it is guaranteeing, it is providing the same guarantees that the federal legislation provides, and that's why we spent months and months and hours and days and days of discussion on this particular matter so that it will ensure this provision of secrecy, that it will ensure that it does conform with the requirements of Ottawa as it pertains to privacy of information on individual companies and individual persons.

I would just make one other point and that is that it is permissive legislation. I said that at the beginning and I say it again, it's permissive in the sense that there is no intention to duplicate the statistical collection efforts of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. We envisage very little, if any, in the way of additional collection efforts The idea is to coordinate what is being done now; the idea is to set up an agency which will obtain information from Ottawa which will guarantee the privacy, which will guarantee the secrecy of information on any individual company or person, and I say that there is every guarantee here, and if you look at the Act very carefully you will see that there is due access to courts if necessary on the part of individuals, and I for one am quite satisfied that we have a very carefully worded, very closely studied piece of legislation. It's been closely studied, the various aspects of it, for a long time and I am convinced that this is a piece of legislation which will be a credit to this province.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. . . . .: Ayes and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members. The question before the House is Bill 40.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Adam, Allard, Barrow, Boyce, Burtniak, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Gottfried, Green, Hanuschak, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Pawley, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw and Walding.

NAYS: Messrs. Beard, Bilton, Craik, Froese, Girard, Graham, Henderson, F. Johnston, Jorgenson, McGill, McKellar, McKenzie, Moug, Patrick, Spivak, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

APPENDIX L

SAMPLE PAGES FROM CURRENT

SASKATCHEWAN 'DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS'

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Anyway this is what happened, Mr. Speaker. This is known to the Government. I don't have to hunt up any figures. They've got lawyers and they've got clerks and they can look it up for themselves and then come into this House and tell me that I'm wrong.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: You can get up on your feet and speak to this Bill if you so like.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it appears that I appear to be hitting the right chords.

Before supper when I began mentioning something about what happened to absentee voters, the Hon. Members there all began shouting. It sounded as if I had gone and just struck a chord and so we heard all kinds of shouts and noises and none of them were harmonious. And here again I begin to talk about something that actually happened, and Hon. Members know it happened, and again you get this discordant noise from the other side. Well, I hope they'll listen to me for awhile and if they have something to say in disagreement, they will have the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to get up and say so.

I pointed out before supper and I want to impress again upon the House now - that one of the weaknesses that is contained in this Act is that there is a possibility of padding. There is nothing to stop any Member from bringing in a 100, 200 or 300 people, like you know the Hon. Member from Athabasca (Mr. Guy). There are only about 3,500, 4,000 or 5,000 voters there compared to my 16,000. There is nothing to stop him and his party bringing in 300 or 400 voters into his constituency and I hope he doesn't think I'm suggesting he do that. I'm just saying it could be done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: He could take them in there and he could promise them jobs and you would get them all voting for the Liberals for the gentleman who may be running, whoever that's going to be, it may be you.

MR. GUY: Darn good idea, Bill!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Yes, it is good and you're exactly the kind of man who would do that. Exactly, because you don't believe in democracy. You don't believe in asking these people to vote for the Members who represent their own home constituency.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: You'll do just that. And I'll tell you another thing, Mr. Speaker, that is done, that I didn't want to talk about because it is a disgrace to the democratic system that we

are following here. But it's about time somebody said something about it and I'm going to say it right now for the benefit of the Hon. Member from Athabasca (Mr. Guy) and some of the other Hon. Members who may be using these kinds of election methods. I refer to treating with liquor. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that hundreds of cases of beer went out of the brewery in Prince Albert and the worst thing about it was that no tax was paid on it and this was distributed at election time to Indians and Metis people. And I think there should be heavy penalties in this law to prohibit that kind of thing. And the Hon. Member knows about it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: He knows about it.

MR. GUY: I know you did it!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: That is a lie. I did not do...I never gave anybody a...even a coffee...

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Now we've heard this word "lie" bantered around this place before and for the second time by you, one of the oldest and most respected Members of this House.

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Mr. Speaker, I said I apologize.

MR. SPEAKER: ...Members of this Legislature and you should have known better. I ask you to apologize once again.

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw. The Hon. Member called me that at one time and he did not withdraw...

MR. SPEAKER: And I can tell you right now and I tell every Member of this House one Member isn't going to call another one a liar as long as I hold this Chair and you'll all regurgitate if you do. Let's have no more of this...

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Mr. Speaker, what the Hon. Member says is not in accordance with the facts...

MR. SPEAKER: ...childish school...Sit down! We'll have no more of this childish schoolyard play in this House. You're behaving like children! You should be ashamed of yourselves - half of you! And if the Hon. Member knows of anybody who broke the law in connection with liquor, he should lay the charges and if he doesn't lay the charges, he's as criminal as anybody.

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Mr. Speaker, I did not say the law was broken.

MR. SPEAKER: You did!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: I was saying, Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to make it clear. I did apologize to the Hon. Member. He got away with it with me once. I didn't get away with it, I tried. You are right, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: If he got away with it then you should have risen on a Point of Order and I should have made sure that he didn't get away with it.

MR. BEREZOWSKY: It's on record anyway. But what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is this - I am not saying that anybody broke the law.

MR. SPEAKER: All right!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: This was done before voting day. When I got down to Cumberland House the day before the election I was told by the people there that they had all kinds of beer, they told me where it came from. I checked in Prince Albert and I found out it came from the brewery and no tax was paid on it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: And it's about time, Mr. Speaker, and it doesn't matter who we are in this House, that we stop using these kinds of gimmicks in a democracy in order to get elected. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, in spite of what the Hon. Member said, I can assure you on my word of honor I have not bought a person a cup of coffee let alone a bottle of liquor to elect me. I don't need to buy coffee or liquor or anything else to get elected.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: I didn't say the Hon. Member (Mr. Guy) did. I said it could be done and it is done and I am not saying by whom but the record is there and it can be found out and I hope the Government will pass legislation to see that beer that goes out of the breweries is taxed like any other commodity like tobacco and everything else. That's what I'm saying. I am not trying to insult anybody.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Point of Order!

MR. BOLDT: The Hon. Member is making a reflection on every Member of this House and I resent this and I want to tell this House that I have never - and you people know it - why do you throw such a reflection on every Member of the House. I too, Mr. Speaker, am ashamed that the older Member here has to make that kind of statement to my colleague here that I...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BOLDT: I don't know of anyone whom I should want to point a finger to who has done it. I wouldn't...

MR. BEREZOWSKY: I did not, Mr. Speaker, point a finger at anybody. I don't know what the Point of Order is. I'm saying that according to my knowledge, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: Order! You've not only pointed a finger at everybody, you've pointed one at me too and I'm not going to stand for it. I'll tell you that.

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Do you expect me to...

MR. SPEAKER: I paid all my bills and I never did anything that was incorrect.

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Mr. Speaker, I can only tell you what people have told me has happened.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Well, then what you are doing in this House is thundering well and mouthing hearsay. Now I suggest we get back on the Bill. The Bill is The Election Act of the Province of Saskatchewan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: Now, getting back to campaign funds. When we get stuff like this - as somebody mentioned before supper - we get it every minute, every hour and when you get this kind of thing it doesn't even say if it's political, like, say, this document - it's in the paper here called the Weekly News. "Do you have a question," it says, "that you'd like to ask these men?" It just happens to be the Premier and the Provincial Treasurer and it says, "if you have, plan now to phone your questions to them face to face." Double face, yes, it's one long hour, six p.m. to seven p.m. March 20, 1971 CKBI-TV and it says, "We invite you to think about the questions you would like to ask. Prepare your question today. Don't miss this valuable opportunity to question the Premier and the Provincial Treasurer of our Province. Watch, ask, listen, face to face." Who's it by? If it is the Liberal Party surely they should have the decency to say so. If it is publicity by the Government of the Province of Saskatchewan, surely it should say "Printed by the authority of the Province of Saskatchewan." I shall table this, Mr. Speaker, if you like. And these are the kinds of things that I say are not covered by the legislation here. Not covered and I say it should be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BEREZOWSKY: And in talking about democracy, I want to ask this

POSTSCRIPT

"We have not succeeded in answering all your questions. Indeed, we sometimes feel we have not completely answered any of them. The answers, we have found, have only served to raise a whole set of new questions. In some ways we feel that we are as confused as ever, but we think we are confused on a higher level and about more important things."

Author Unkown

DATE DUE